Libraries

(A Continuation of Public Libraries)

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Whom Shall the Library School Admit?

W. E. Henry, Dean of the Library School, University of Washington, Seattle

Every profession or business that must depend upon special fitness for special service must measure with care those who try to enter it.

We must inspect with discriminating care the nature and fitness in both native tendencies and acquired accomplishments all those persons who offer to enter the professional schools. It is a great responsibility to select and prepare those persons who are to enter the profession under consideration.

I am inclined to believe that in any line of activity, whether we designate it a profession or a business, we need to possess a certain type and amount of specific knowledge as such almost regardless of personality.

There are certain lines of activity where mere knowledge or information is of slight significance but in which personality or the ability to touch the intellect or the emotions in the proper way at the proper time makes a discriminating difference between success and failure. Fine intelligence and superior personality are both desirable and they are sometimes combined in the same person, but discouraging as it may be they are frequently almost distinct and separated. The nature and combination of these traits or forces are the elements which make it possible for some to be eminent successes in their chosen line, while others of great ability and the best of intentions are dismal failures.

Facing these facts of possession and combination, we find some lacking both knowledge and personality; these do not enter into our problems. Any school desiring to select certain types of persons as fit for its use, has the most difficult task facing it in its first efforts toward selecting the type of person it is willing and even anxious to accept. There is needed fair assurance that when the course of instruction is completed there shall result a person who can be easily placed to the credit of both the person whose fitness is at stake, and the school which has selected, trained, and placed the fortunate individual who was by nature fit, for here as elsewhere in the world, "To him that hath shall be given."

This is a way of presenting to every library school the very serious question as to who should enter that school at the beginning of each school year; and, difficult as it may seem, we as directors of and teachers in such do and must face this complex, delicate and dangerous question. We see clearly that in less than a year after admission to the school some one or even each one must be recommended and located in some living institution. All this means that those of us who assume the direction of a library school must have in mind, and adopt as a guiding principle, that we must accept only those who are capable in intellect and in personality, for thru these we direct the great responsibility of profes-

sional service. It is true here as elsewhere that "not everyone that saith 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom."

As our relatively new and highly valued profession of Librarianship is growing in importance and notoriety, many will be strongly attracted to it without serious self-inspection above the idea of a reputable and fairly compensating job. Those of us who must meet this condition have found that dozens come now where one or two came a few years ago. We are all aware that our colleges are now turning out hundreds of graduates where a few years ago they turned out tens. Colleges that 20 years ago had a registration of a thousand students are now registering from seven to ten thousand. Whether that Divinity that shapes our ends is wholly wise or not may be questioned.

Many who enter college now do so not because of any Divine inspiration, but because they did not see anything else to do, and it is the social style. Some of our older professions are being overcrowded, especially the one most closely allied to librarianship, the teaching profession; and all who have kept in touch with professional training are now thoroly aware of that overflow and the numbers are growing rapidly from year to year.

This disproportion is bad enough in the West, but we are informed that it is much more extreme in the East. For some years this overflow has been increasing, and of the vast number many have gone into teaching because they could see nothing else available in which they could use their education, so now it is a common expression that "I don't want to teach, I dislike it heartily, but I do not see anything else that I can do. and in most other lines I can not secure so good an income in so short a period, as we have longer vacations there than in other lines,"—if not in just these words, still in this spirit.

Many teachers when looking for a good landing from the "slough of despond" conclude that librarianship appears to be dry land; that it is at least inviting and safe. If many of these people should leave teaching early in their career, the change would not be so dangerous. However, the awful fact is well-known that few people in any profession are capable of readjusting themselves readily to a new line of service. Long service in any line tends to paralyze anyone for readjustment. It is a fair and I believe a commonly accepted doctrine that any person must be trained and experienced early in life if he is to expect success. It has been adequately tested, and I believe fully accepted, that anyone must be prepared for a profession relatively young and before he becomes entangled in other lines. The person going into a new line of service usually succeeds best who enters early and does not dissipate his energy in outside activities. However, a short service in an outside line is not seriously detrimental if taken early and for only a short period.

In one library school, the advice is always against entrance into the library school beyond the age of thirty, unless the person has had much experience in a first rate modern library where the latest practice and spirit prevail. In that same school, the present class entered at the average age of a little less than 23 years, and the entire class ranged from 19 to 30; and 33 of the 50 averaged less than 21½ years. They are young in years, ready for new ideas and plans, keen in spirit and clear of prejudices, and well up in the best type of academic scholarship. They are teachable, not loaded with other professional theories, and are ready for experimentation.

In selecting our people for the library schools, we face many embarrassing situations. There are many who try to select a profession or an occupation relatively late in years, some who have grown tired of or failed in other lines. Good general education is quite common. Scholarship alone is not a guide to either selection or retention in any line. We are

forced by both theory and practice to guard our library schools and our libraries against a great influx from other professions and especially so from any profession that has an over-supply, for in such a condition the ones least fit for their own profession are the ones most likely to migrate to other lines of activity somewhat similar in general culture.

Teaching and librarianship bear a fairly close resemblance to one who observes wholly from the outside of one or both. To the person who knows both fairly well they are strikingly unlike. Librarianship is almost completely a democratic institution and organization, while the other is close to absolute monarchy, especially in its elementary and widely distributed form.

Now the problem closest before the library profession in the selection and preparation of its personnel is the very general, widespread, and serious fact and condition that the teaching profession is vastly over-supplied, or in business terms, over-stocked. This over-supply must lodge elsewhere in considerable numbers, and they are looking our way. They must pass suddenly and unknowingly from near monarchy to almost complete democracy. A rather positive, contrasting remark was made by one not wholly generous, who said, "Every teacher has been either a *boss* with absolute control, or has occupied a subordinate position where she is absolutely *bossed.*" Neither of these types is trained for the peculiarly democratic position of a librarian. Also, the great mass of teachers have devoted themselves to a very narrow range of scholarship—one group to the very restricted scope which belongs only to the elementary forms. Another considerable group has lived almost wholly in a very limited field of thinking and mastery by directing themselves to high grade, but to a very small area, of scholarship.

Persons of these types, however well-inclined, do not fit well into library service, unless they can find their way into an institution where high specialization is possible; but such positions are almost never found except in great institutional libraries which are few in number, and these usually do not have large staffs and can absorb but few.

The librarian can not usually be a person of specific scholarship because his range is too wide; but he can and must have a fair scholarship in a wide range. Our school has found usually that teachers are too limited in their linguistic accomplishments.

So, briefly stated, our own experience has forced us to avoid most ex-teachers for the reasons assigned, and it has directed us strongly to a high grade of general scholarship in the possession of young people that have not drifted into formal and fixed lines but are liberal and generous, fairly clear of prejudices, and ready to see almost any subject with keen eyes and in the light that comes to others.

Where can the school get additional protection in the lines here discussed? The greatest assistance and support available, I think, must come from the graduates of the schools, for next to the administration and staff in the school the greatest resource of protection is in their hands. In guarding the schools they protect themselves.

Many who anticipate a change into librarianship are likely to consult with a librarian. Here, if anywhere, our graduates can safeguard the school and the profession by carefully considering each case, pointing out to each specifically personal advantages and disadvantages, and warning the inquirer of the difficulties of undertaking a professional transfer.

The central office of the American Library Association may help much, for it is consulted by many upon many subjects, and can be independent in its advice.

The writer of this paper has the most kindly and generous views of teachers as such, for he has been a teacher for many years in varied types of school work, and has enjoyed it all greatly. He has also been in library service for some years and has had opportunity to see these institutions and people from both sides and believes he has presented the question fairly from both angles.

D. C. Numbers on L. C. Cards [1]

The addition of D. C. numbers to the Library of Congress cards has been discussed from time to time for many years. This coöperative work is now, we hope, about to be started. The fact that librarians using the Library of Congress classification have been materially helped by the printed numbers, has, doubtless, influenced this demand for the D. C. In 1926, the Catalog section referred the matter to the A. L. A. Council. The Committee on cataloging and classification was then asked by the Executive board to submit a budget, with suggestion for financing, and a plan of work.

The Committee report having been approved by the Board, circular letters were sent to all libraries subscribing to the Library of Congress printed cards, stating the problem and inviting them, if interested, to subscribe for a period of three years an amount approximately equal to 10 per cent of an average annual bill for the printed cards. This was later followed by a second circular letter.

In accordance with the plan as outlined, Library of Congress, aside from furnishing desk space, will assume no responsibility for the work. D. C. numbers will first be supplied on cards currently printed for English books, and as many others as possible. As time and funds permit, they will be assigned to all printed and reprinted cards.

Service received seems a just basis for payment. Responses have been varied and interesting. While some have expressed themselves as entirely opposed to the undertaking, others have been enthusiastic over its possibilities. Some generous subscriptions have been made without thot of returns but to promote a piece of coöperative work. In some instances, the regulations of library funds have prevented subscriptions being made as suggested. This applies mainly to state institutions and to school libraries under departments of education. It is hoped, however, that if such libraries find the service of value, a satisfactory method of payment will be found.

Nine thousand dollars a year for three years was the minimum amount required for starting the work. Subscriptions to date total $8,000, showing a definite interest in the project. Library of Congress, by detailing service, agrees to underwrite for three years half the remaining $1,000, providing A. L. A. will underwrite for an equal amount. This has been recommended. If the service proves as useful as expected, other libraries using the D. C. classification will wish to subscribe and the work should be self-supporting at the end of the three years of trial.

The feeling is rather general that this printing of D. C. numbers will be especially useful to the small libraries. The large libraries may, however, profit in the end, if this service leads to expanding the D. C. classification to provide numbers for new subjects as the need arises.

E. L.

[1] Presented by Eliza Lamb before A. L. A. Council meetings, December 30-31, 1929.

Letters—Information and Discussion

The World Do Move!

It is stated by the rural press of Ohio:

The Ohio Legislative Reference library, under the direction of State Librarian George Elliot McCormick, is engaged in making a survey of all state legislative reference departments thruout the United States.

The number of volumes, amount appropriated, size of staff and organization of each library is being investigated, and the number and proportion of bills drafted by each Legislative Reference service is to be included. This is the first time that such a survey has ever been attempted.

Free Distribution

The sponsors of the publication of the *Sacco-Vanzetti Record* have a few sets which they will be glad to send gratis to libraries that have not received the *Record.* Applications will be filled in the order received as long as sets are available. Address Bernard Flexner, 40 Exchange Place, New York City.

The National Committee for Mental Hygiene, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, has a limited supply of many back numbers of its quarterly journal, *Mental Hygiene,* which it will furnish to libraries and responsible individuals without cost, so long as the supply lasts. State issue and year wanted.

Library Legislation

Action by the Board of the Public library, Toledo, Ohio, sets forth the following:

After January 1, 1930, marriage contracted after that date on the part of a member of the staff will be considered as equivalent to a resignation unless it is to the distinct advantage of the Library that she remain. In such cases, a written request to continue in the service of the Library will be made by the Library to the staff member.

A great majority of the married women now on the staff are doing their work very satisfactorily, indeed, and it has been an advantage to the library to have them continue in the service. Nevertheless, the increasing number of married women on the staff makes the problem of assignment and promotion and filling positions of responsibility more difficult. In a few cases, divided interest is apparent, and the new home duties, which of course should come first, interfere with the work of the Library. The chief difficulty, however, is the inadvisability of considering for positions of responsibility persons who will probably stay on the staff only a short time.

For German-Reading Borrowers

Of distinct interest to American libraries will be a small book just published in Germany by B. G. Teubner (Leipzig) *Die Amerikanische Dichtung der Gegenwart.* The author is Dr Friedrich Bruns, professor of German at the University of Wisconsin. In 128 pages of clear, energetic writing Dr Bruns gives to the general reader an engaging introduction to modern American literature. The characterizations of style, writings and *Weltanschuung* are provocative and discriminating. The author brings to his book a wide knowledge of German literature and many years of experience as a stimulating teacher of the subject. His frequent comparisons with German writers are suggestive and thot-provoking. The book will be a distinct addition to the German collection of any library with a German-reading clientele.

AMY WINSLOW

Public library
Indianapolis, Indiana

King's English

At last we know what is meant by "king's English." It's just plain common-sense pronunciation, in which the "r" is articulate, the broad "ah" not overemphasized.

Now is the time for certain radio announcers and talking-picture stars who have been wearing a bean in the mouth in order to attain a "Boston accent" to learn how to speak king's English.

Looks as if George V. started something when he sounded the naval conference keynote, as well as his "rs."

GENE MORGAN,
Chicago Daily News.

Multigraph Printing

Editor, LIBRARIES:

May I say in LIBRARIES that I would like to get in communication with the librarians who print booklists on the multigraph. Perhaps an exchange of information and lists would be to our mutual advantage.

L. L. DICKERSON
Librarian

Public library
Indianapolis, Ind.

Salutation to A. L. A. Membership

For the Last Week of June!

Californians associated with library work rejoice unitedly that the American Library Association will hold its annual meeting in Los Angeles, June 23-28. Already we are feeling the glow of welcoming plans and are crowding all the bad weather possible into January, so that wind and rain will be exhausted by June.

This fifty-second conference of the association will be the fourth to be held in California—San Francisco in 1891, Pasadena in 1911, Berkeley in 1915, and now for the first time, Los Angeles.

Since A. L. A. members last journeyed to California in the year of the San Francisco exhibition, much library development has been accomplished in the south of the state. To mention large plants only, the great Huntington library has been deeded to the public, and new buildings of the Pasadena and Los Angeles public libraries have been completed, the Pomona, Claremont and Scripps' College group has been organized, and the new campus of the University of California in Los Angeles has within the present year been opened.

Workers in every type of library activity, librarians and trustees of research, university, college, school, special, county and public libraries join in urging you all to tip the continent to a hazardous Pacific slope in the rush you will make westward to the first meeting of the 1930s.

Welcome to all twelve thousand members.

ORRA E. MONNETTE, President
Board of library commissioners
Los Angeles public library

Donations Requested

To increase the illustrative material in the Illinois State library, Springfield, the Illinois State historical society has made an appeal to its membership and others interested for all objects that can illustrate the early settlement, progress, or present condition of Illinois.

Georgia L. Osborne, secretary of the organization, has announced that contributions will be credited to the donors in the published reports of the library and society, and will be preserved in the library as the property of the state.

Objects especially desired by the society include: old letters, books, journals and pamphlets written by Illinois citizens; bibliographical manuscripts and narratives of the pioneers of Illinois; city ordinances, sermons and addresses of all kinds; catalogs and reports of colleges and schools; copies of the earlier laws; maps of the state, counties or townships of any date; views, drawings and paintings connected with Illinois history; and curiosities of all kinds.

Voicing a Protest

The Council of the New York library association, representing 3,000 librarians as members, over 700 public libraries, some 7,000 school libraries and over 9,000,000 residents of the state of New York patronizing public libraries, expresses its firm opposition to the proposed language of section 305 of House Resolution 2667 relating to the importation of printed matter.

Attention is called to the worst feature of the bill, that of setting up as

arbiters of literature, history and morality, customs officials who are chosen, not for any knowledge of these fields, but for their ability to place proper prices on these articles. The transfer of this duty from the courts to such a body, with the imposition of heavy penalties for failure to enforce the act, will certainly bring about arbitrary and unwise decisions.

A copy of the memorial, together with a letter urging that this memorial be given earnest consideration, was sent to each senator and representative from New York state and to those senators who are members of the Senate Finance committee.

MILDRED ROSS
Secretary, N. Y. L. A.

Limitations of a Public Library

A college graduate with a regular library school training and eight years of library service, resigned last year as librarian from a good library, but not a large one, and went into another field for study. She is in a community noted for library facilities etc. A quotation from a recent letter from her is as follows:

During this Christmas vacation, I have had time to read for the first time since coming here. I rushed eagerly to the public library, delighted at having the opportunity to use one of the world's famous libraries. The opportunity faded out!

As a non-resident I am not permitted to borrow new books. That did not disturb me because there are thousands of old books I want to read, but I was surprised to find that the library circulates very few classics. I was not even permitted to borrow any of Thackeray's books, altho I could have taken Gene Stratton Porter's! The only benefit I received was the pleasure it gave me to look at the library and its arrangements.

There is an embarrassment in having a reputation and at the same time a situation which doesn't square with it.

There is room, sometimes, to think of Clemenceau's question as to the Americans when after pointing out many virtues in them, he asks "But *why* must they be so pleased with themselves?"

Magazines in Libraries

Mrs Jane Gavere, secretary, Bureau of public information, Extension department, University of North Dakota, has been giving considerable thot and study to something that has interest for book people, and she offers some opinions with regard to the use of magazines in libraries which has much in it worthy of consideration by library folk.

In a recent letter, Mrs Gavere says:

It seems to me that librarians have been thinking and doing too much in terms of book service with not enough organized program of guidance, publicity and service for that other kind of current printed book, the magazine. I approve a balanced program of book and magazine reading, one to complement the other.

We are a magazine reading people in infinitely greater numbers than we are readers of books. The rank and file buy magazines. The majority of homes are on limited budgets. Books are a luxury. The magazines give the members of the family the variety in reading they wish at the least cost. Then, too, our rural people are generally not book minded. There are so few opportunities for book contacts (librarys, bookstores, etc.,) occasionally they would be considered queer or trying to be highbrow if they tried to talk books, a peculiar rural-mindedness one actually meets. There seems to be greater freedom in talking magazine stories or content of articles.

Young people in our high schools (four million) and colleges (91,000) should have a course in magazine evaluation, grade schools in children's magazines, high schools and colleges in the many magazines covering such a multiplicity of interests.

What magazines young people are reading in many instances seems to be nobody's concern except possibly the newsstands. Many young people develop their own reading habits. Teachers often do not make the most of their opportunity. Parents just don't know that there is a difference in quality or content. The trashy magazines brought into the home do not suggest to them a reading problem.

A few magazines have a tremendous circulation. Many worthwhile periodicals are practically unknown, or known of vaguely and not subscribed for or read.

Monthly—Except August and September

Libraries

Mary Eileen Ahern, Editor

216 W. Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois

Subscription - - - - - - - - - - - $3 a year
Current single number - - - - - 35 cents
Five copies to one library - - - $12 a year
Foreign subscriptions - - - - $3.50 a year

By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for $10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or postoffice money-orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at market prices.

Contributions for current numbers of LIBRARIES should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

Library Ethics

THE question of a code of library ethics must have some sort of motivating power in the minds of members of the A. L. A. who feel something is needed, or at least something impressive should emanate, as an expression of the attitude of the A. L. A. toward the subject of its professional ethics.

At several different times, the matter has been brought into the Council for more or less, generally less, serious discussion without any very perceptible impression being made on the minds, manners and morals of those who might be supposed to be especially interested in the subject, tho no very striking needs of what has been offered have been pointed out. Such interest might come because some thot they saw depression in the height of what might be termed "professional ethics," or a lack of recognition on the part of the whole body as to what was fitting under the circumstances.

It is a subject which appeals to one at first blush, more from a natural sense of fitness rather than from anything that seems amiss in a general way in the professional body. In no group of voluntary workers is the ethical quality involved in various performances, of an overpowering high quality. Poor human nature—critical, ambitious, impotent, and misunderstanding—arrives at conclusions far too frequently into which extraneous factors have been dragged and from which definite factors have been omitted.

In an educational activity, surely there can be no question of kind of ethics that should be involved. Any amount of ideas satisfactorily found in definite or indefinite language will not move the foundation of ethical principles, which if not present, spells disaster sooner or later. This is a great danger in any sort of a democratic organization and the library field in the United States is no freer from the danger of mirage developing in it than any other calling.

It is well that occasionally a survey is made of the distance covered, the present conditions as to quality, quantity, kind and use of personal efforts and a very clear understanding of what the future under those circumstances does portend. Sincerity of purpose, devotion to duty, intelligent understanding, charitable measurements, fair estimates and many other ingredients which have contributed

in the past to the success of the work have not finished their usefulness. Built on a firm foundation, the work will go forward. Built on a false or flimsy pretension, progress will sag. It may disintegrate, but so long as it is a matter of mental activity, it cannot be permanently injured.

It would seem that with the high standards that have been set for librarianship by those who have been appointed by authority so to do, with the inside spread of supervision of library efforts that are being fostered by those in places of power in the A. L. A., that one who comes in imbued with an honest purpose to make a contribution in the work, to serve his environment, to express himself so that his problems may be understood, may apply ordinary business ethics with little need for a special code for library service.

After all, as someone in the aisle at the Council meeting asked, "Have the *Ten Commandments* faded? Has the *Golden Rule* broken down? and are the *Seven Virtues* thrown in the discard in library work?"

Mystery Novels for the Tired Business Man

HOW much is enough? How long can a ball roll when it has been started? How big is a piece of chalk? Is it better than a piece of bread? And can there be too much of a good thing?

Who started the search for the remedial story wanted to rest the tired business man? And who found out and reported correctly that it was "the mystery story"? And what do the records show as to who is reading the mystery story? And how long does it take the tired business man to become rested? And what does he do after he becomes rested? Does he continue to read "the mystery story," or anything else?

Is there something in the proposal to omit continued purchase of that sort of fiction, leaving its handling to the rental libraries? Do not the example and experience of Newark public library and others give reliable precedents to warrant the attempt by other libraries? Was concern for the proper mental pabulum for the tired business man the original incentive or did an eye on the circulation figures start the ball rolling? And why did and does concern for the t. b. m. seem to overshadow altogether concern for the tired business woman? Is she not in evidence? Or does she rest herself by other readings than those warranted for the t. b. m.? Where does it all come from and what does it really do? And how long will it last? And what next?

Mileposts as Guideposts

A SORT of spirit of measurement of the years of service of libraries, and of librarians too, and expressions of appreciation of the same, seem to be extending thru the library world of this country. Surveys and reviews of the extent of library activities are found in newspapers and in all sorts of printed material. Stories of those a long time engaged in library service are given as news items, as history, as memoirs, as statistics, as

personal reminiscences, and as accounts of public recognition. Even LIBRARIES indulged a bit in that line at the opening of its thirty-fifth volume. Last summer, the colleagues of Dr Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress, honored themselves by honoring him at the conclusion of 30 years of service as head of the National library. Boards, staffs and the public joined during the year in recognition of the long years of fine service on the part of their librarian in many places —Minneapolis, Cleveland, Louisville and in smaller communities. Honorary degrees were conferred on individuals rendering valuable service in the cause of books, as teachers in library schools and as heads in library departments.

Mileposts in library service are being set up much more frequently than formerly. A notable occasion of this was the recognition of the long bibliographical service of Mr H. W. Wilson recently by the Pennsylvania library association.

These mileposts afford not only pleasure to the recipients, but may serve as guideposts to others not so long in the library harness and not so near to the end of their careers, and as signs of the recognition that does come to work well done.

Seventeen Years of Service 1912-1928

"Seventeen years of service 1912-1928," is the latest printed report of the Rochester public library. Its extensive summaries of book circulation, of appropriations and classified expenditures, of Sunday and holiday opening, cover the entire history of the library.

It began with the branch system and opened a central collection only two and a half years ago. These facts together with a certain comprehensiveness in treatment of usual library topics give a kind of evolutionary picture of the youngest public library system among the 25 largest cities in the United States.

It is a good job of printing and the many illustrations (34 of them) help to make it attractive and very readable. Among its features are: 1) a president's report that shows real insight into library problems and appreciation of the work and the workers; 2) evidence that fine buildings are not essential to good service (almost all of the libraries are in rented or remodeled buildings which are without architectural merit, tho interiors are well arranged and equipped); 3) advantages and disadvantages of renting are fully shown (even including a renting technique); 4) theft of books, bewailed by librarians everywhere, is presented with unusual frankness (a whole library stolen); 5) appropriations increased every year without exception (94 cents per capita in 1928); 6) a high standard of general education among staff members; 7) the library is a habitual advertiser; 8) it rates itself highly (108 according to the New York State plan); it ranks third among 40 largest cities of the United States in per capita circulation (7.44 volumes according to A. L. A. statistics).

A Change of Base

William Stetson Merrill, who completed 40 years of continuous service in the Newberry library last June, has been retired on half pay for the remainder of his life. Mr Merrill was graduated from Harvard, 1888, spent a year in the Harvard library, and joined the Newberry library staff, 1889, on invitation of Dr William F. Poole, librarian. For many years, he was head classifier, and for 10 years served as head of the reference department.

Mr Merrill will join the staff of classifiers of the John Crerar library, March 1.

Death's Toll

Minnie Bell, for 43 years the well-beloved librarian of Tulane University, New Orleans, died on January 5 of an acute heart attack.

Miss Bell had been closely identified with Tulane University, and every student who attended Tulane during the past 43 years, loved and revered Miss Bell, not only for her helpfulness to them, but for the charming character and kindly disposition which she bore. She retired last year with the title of librarian emeritus, the occasion being made a notable one by the faculty and students. (LIBRARIES 34:354)

The funeral was attended by a large procession of the students and faculty, headed by President Dinwiddie and Dr Bechtel.

The death of Edward C. Williams at Washington on December 24, 1929, means the loss of one whose contributions to librarianship, altho quietly made, were far-reaching and vital.

Mr Williams was born at Cleveland in 1871 and was graduated at Western Reserve University in 1892. He attended the New York State library school, 1899-1900, receiving an honor first-year certificate. This formal professional study had been anticipated by his appointment as librarian of Adelbert College of Western Reserve University in 1894, which post he held until 1909.

Beginning in 1900, his duties as librarian included the giving of instruction in bibliography and reference work to under-graduates, and after the establishment of the School of library science at the university in 1904, he taught bibliography, reference work and allied subjects at that school. In 1909, he resigned his Cleveland positions to become principal of the M. Street high school in Washington, and after seven years of work in the school field was designated librarian of Howard University in 1916.

The last named post, which came to carry with it a heavy program of instruction in modern languages, he held at the time of his death. Mr Williams served as secretary of the Ohio library association in 1901 and as second vice-president of the New York State library school association in 1903-04. In 1929, he was awarded by the Julius Rosenwald Fund a fellowship for advanced study, pursuant to which he enrolled in September in Columbia University library school. Illness thru the fall compelled his return to Washington early in December, followed by the discovery of conditions more serious than had been realized.

Sympathy, versatility and brilliance were characteristic of Mr Williams' mind, and these qualities and his capacity for hard work made him a force in every circle that he touched. As a librarian he was broad-visioned and efficient, and as a teacher, highly successful and stimulating. In recent years, he has been particularly a source of advice and inspiration to all who are concerned with the growth of library work and library service among negroes. Mr Williams leaves a wife, who is a daughter of Charles W. Chesnutt, the author, and a married son who is practicing law in Washington.

It is with deep regret that the Board of directors and Librarian of the Public library, Riverside, Cal., convey the information of the death, January 18, 1930, of Frances Strang (Riverside, '23) who, since 1924, has been in charge of the county library work. She had been absent from her duties since December 2.

Miss Strang was a faithful and capable worker, beloved of all her associates.

David A. Boody, for many years an effective member of the Board of trustees of the Public library, Brooklyn, N. Y., died the middle of last month.

Retirement of Frank P. Hill

Frank P. Hill, No. 459 in A. L. A. membership, since 1901 librarian of the Public library of Brooklyn, N. Y., has resigned his position, to take effect October 1.

Mr Hill began his library work in Lowell, Massachusetts, 1881-85; he organized the first free public library in New Jersey at Paterson in 1885; he became librarian of Newark public library in 1889 and served until 1901 when he became librarian of the Public library of Brooklyn where he has since remained.

Mr Hill has held many positions of honor and power in library organizations and his name is on the roster of those most concerned with the important events in A. L. A. circles for the last 30 years. He was secretary of the A. L. A. from 1891-95 and was president of the memorable meeting at Narragansett Pier in 1906. He has been a member of the Board of the American Library Institute for a number of terms and has served as its president.

Mr Hill retires from the Brooklyn public library voluntarily in the thot of giving to the institution which he has served for 30 years, the opportunity for a younger man to begin at this important point of the library's progress in building and other things, and giving to himself an opportunity to enjoy the fruits of his labor. "My interest will continue with this particular library and with the American Library Association whose meetings I shall hope to attend."

The loss to the Brooklyn public library of the care of both Dr Hill and the late lamented David A. Boody, so long the able president of the Board, at this same time will leave a vacancy in the administration of the library that will make notable an opportunity for their successors.

The Authors Press of New York City has sent out from the editorial office of the Authors club, to a selected list of persons, a gift distributed in the interest of good literature.

The gift is a manual; an index covering practically every great author from the ninth century up to date; every standard book with a synopsis of each story. A simple system of indexing by numbers enables you to immediately locate any author; the books they have written; characters; subjects; or the countries from which the story is taken.

A letter announcing the gift, signed by W. L. Myers, expresses the belief that this manual is so complete that any boy or girl, after its use, could qualify as a librarian.

Isn't that the way of Fate dealing with humanity? Thousands have spent time, strength, money, and study from one to ten years, to become librarians and now when the job is about complete, here comes the offer that a single book will turn the post over to any boy or girl. Sad, indeed, are the ways of Fate!

A Joint Exhibit

The Newark museum and public library made a joint exhibition at the Newark Automobile Show in January. The exhibition titled "From Shanks' Mare to Sixteen Cylinders" traced by means of historic models, posters and pictures, the development of the motor vehicle from 1770 to date. This exhibit filled the entire north gallery of the Armory where the joint exhibition was held, and was said to be the first instance of coöperation of this kind between a public library, a city museum and an automobile show.

The library assembled a collection of books, pamphlets, and maps, including not only the latest technical works and manuals on shop practice, but also many interesting books on the automobile industry.

About 25,000 road maps of the United States, Canada and foreign countries were given free of charge to the visitors.

Code of Library Ethics

The committee on the Code of Ethics received its sailing directions in the fall of 1928, its commission being

1) To pass on the advisability of reprinting the Bolton Code of 1922.
2) To decide, if we did not reprint the Bolton Code, whether it was desirable to have a code at all, and
3) To prepare such a code if it was considered advisable to have one.

The committee decided to discuss the matter of reprinting the Bolton Code and the question of the desirability of having a code with the Association of Library Schools at the mid-winter meeting a year ago, as that organization represents the agencies responsible for disseminating professional ethics, and found the consensus of opinion favorable to having a code but unfavorable to reprinting the Bolton Code. The committee therefore went ahead and prepared an outline of the points that might be included in such a code, and sent them to all the schools in the Association for suggestions, the suggestions being discussed by the Association at its meeting in Washington. At the Washington conference, the tentative code was also shown to and discussed with many librarians present. The additions, subtractions and suggestions there received were again worked over by the resident members of the committee and the result sent out this fall to all the members of the committee. Their suggestions and corrections were again discussed by the local committee before the code in its present form was sent to the A. L. A. for distribution to the members of the council, with a request for criticism and suggestion.

I mention all this to allay the fear expressed by some that the code represents the views of the committee alone. At least 200 members of the profession have been consulted in its preparation to date. It has also been discussed by the students in two or three library schools.

The local members of the committee have considered carefully every suggestion that has been made. Some of them were mutually exclusive, some seemed too circumstantial or too local in application, and some too obvious; the code does not aim to be a substitute for the ten commandments, and we did not consider that matters of accepted business practice or of plain honesty came within its scope. We tried, also, to avoid mere matters of etiquette since they are of temporary rather than fundamental import. It has not been possible to get the whole committee together, but the chairman has had the benefit of discussion with Miss Rankin and Miss Horton, and has called on others in the vicinity for help in clearing up disputed points, and as it stands it represents the best the present committee can do.

Josephine Adams Rathbone
Chairman, Committee on
Code of Ethics

* * * * * *

[The committee's report on the Code will be printed later in *A. L. A. Bulletin.* The substance of the material offered is about as follows:

The material submitted to the consideration of the Council had been carefully analyzed and covered many points of special value.

The analysis of the library as a factor for which a code of ethics might be evolved covered the definition of a library and the fundamental principles that are generally applicable to any kind of a library.

The human factors listed are: 1) Governing bodies, 2) administrative officers, 3) the staff, and 4) the library profession.

Under a) governing bodies—the functions of such bodies, the appointments made by or for it, the tenure of positions, resignations, dismissals and recommendations were discussed. Under b) administrative officers—the threefold relation of the librarian to the constituents of the library, to the trustees and to the staff, were set out at length. Under c) the staff—loyalty to the institution, relations to the public, and relations within the staff were discussed. Under d) the library profession—obligations of the staff to the body at large were discussed.]

The Biblioteche Popolari of Italy

James G. Hodgson, late librarian, International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, Italy

(Concluded)

The most thoroly organized system is the *Federazione Italiana delle Biblioteche Popolari,* which was founded in 1908. It was directed by Ettore Fabietti until 1926 when, because of political difficulties, the administration was changed and the novelist, Leo Pollini, was appointed as representative of the government. This Federation, the most important of them all, attempts to associate all of the popular libraries, whether in schools, belonging to public or private institutions, or even for restricted groups, and now has over 5,000 member libraries.

As an indication of the activities of the Federation, it might be noted that it gives the following services to its members:

1) Sells books at a special discount.
2) Sells books published by the Federation itself at half list price.
3) Sells library supplies at the lowest possible price.
4) Does low cost binding.
5) Publishes certain types of popular editions, aids on library organization, children's books, poetry, translations of famous works, popular non-fiction, etc.
6) By means of its periodical *La Parola e il Libro* which is free to members, gives aid in the selection of books.
7) Furnishes moral aid and support.
8) And gives information on various questions which arise in operating a library.

The Federation has its own print shop, bindery and shipping office in Milan, and now has a capital of over a million and a half lire (about $75,000), distributed among investments in machinery, supplies on hand, and cash. Membership costs 10 lire a year for those libraries having but 1,000 volumes or less, and runs up to 25 lire a year for those with 5,000 or more volumes. Moreover, if the annual payment is made before January 31, every member library has the right to select from the more than 150 volumes on the list of the Federation up to the value of their annual quota. In other words if membership dues are paid on time, the libraries get the same amount back in books, and still get the *Rivista* free. The payment of the quota also gives the libraries the right to free postage on their letters to the Federation and on any packages of books which are sent to the Federation or received from it.

Two organizations of a general character have been much interested in the development of libraries of the popular type for their own groups—a situation which may be said to be due to the lack of adequate free public circulating libraries. They are: the *Opera Nazionale Dopo-Lavoro* and the *Opera Nazionale Balilla.* The first is the great Italian adult education organization, and the second, the work with young boys which prepares them for their final admission to the Fascist party.

The *Opera Nazionale Dopo-Lavoro* (National After-Work organization) or the O. N. D. as it is usually called, has sent out from its central offices more than 1,300 small libraries, and the Hon. Turati, secretary of the Fascist party, announced early this year the formation of a bibliographical section in the O. N. D. headquarters. Many of the local organizations in the various factories have their own libraries, as for example that of the *Società Edison* in Milan. These are in fact company libraries, but they still are closely connected with the national organization, and may be members of the Federation of popular libraries.

The *Opera Nazionale Balilla* (O. N. B.) is interested in the establishment of children's libraries for the members of the organization. Here the need is even greater because of the small number of children's libraries in connection with the *Biblioteche Popolari.* In the Spring of 1928, regulations for the conduct of these libraries of the provincial and communal committees of the O. N. B.

were promulgated, and those local units which did not have libraries for the boys and girls were early ordered to start them. Early in 1929, it was reported that 347 such libraries had been opened. But when it is realized that the O. N. B. itself had conducted or directed some 1,040 rural schools in Calabria and Sicily alone, it can be realized that there is still a lot of ground to be covered. A regular page of the literature recommended for children appears in the *Bolletino* of the O. N. B., and the continual notices of library activities recorded in the same periodical speaks well for the rapid increase of this type of library.

Among other organizations which might be mentioned, is the *Casa di Dante* which is interested in furnishing libraries of general cultural value for the Italian colonies in foreign countries. A small subsidy is received from the Ministry of war, but the greater part of the funds are raised by voluntary subscription. While this last organization deals only with military forces, it is worthy of particular note because of its rather unique character.

The Fascist party has shown a lively interest in the *Biblioteche Popolari,* and many articles in their favor have appeared in various party and pro-party organs. But, otherwise, state interest has been slow in developing. In 1917, the first library law was adopted. By its provisions, every class in the schools is required to have a student's or classroom library, while in each commune there is to be at least one public circulating library open to the students and adults alike and to be housed in one of the school buildings.

In some of the cities, the various popular libraries form systems under greater or less central control. In Rome, there is a municipal central library with 25 branches, with a total book collection of about 50,000 volumes, of which the central collection has about 15,000 and the branches about 1,500 each. All of the branches, except one, are located in school buildings and are under the direction of one of the teachers particularly qualified for that kind of work, with an assistant. The libraries are open two hours an evening on three different days, usually from six o'clock until eight in the evening, but the branch for the use of the street car employees has special hours. From the central library, books may be borrowed for special purposes, while the central library also has the right to borrow from the National library *Vittorio Emanuele* books which are to be used only in the central library reading room. Books for the system are selected by a special committee competent in this matter, which meets once a week to discuss individual titles. While most of the library help is male, the central collection is in charge of a woman who has three assistants.

The Roman system was started in 1921 with 250 books and one branch, and within the last few years has grown so rapidly as to almost overcome the Milan system as the leaders of their type. "The Roman popular library system," said Dr Comm Virgilio Testa, chief of the General Affairs office of the City of Rome, under whose general direction the libraries are being developed, "is a part of the adult education program of the Fascist party, which hopes to instill into the people the love of the book, and to work up a close coöperation between the libraries and the schools, so that the student who has finished school will still have an opportunity to continue his education thru the library which he learned to use while still a student." Circulation statistics for the City of Rome were given above in comparison with those of the National library.

The libraries of Milan, which were founded and developed under private direction, form the outstanding group of Italy. As a monument to their director for the last 27 years, Ettore Fabietti.

they are even more of a memorial than the *Federazione Italiana delle Biblioteche Popolari,* which he was instrumental in founding and of which he was director for so many years. In 1867, there had been founded in Milan, the *Società Promotrice della Biblioteche Popolari,* following the examples of other countries notably those established in Alsace by J. Mace. But not until 1902 when the poorly conducted work of the society was taken over by the *Consorzio delle Biblioteche Popolari,* was anything serious or far reaching attempted. In 1904, the first four branches were opened under the new direction, and from that the work grew rapidly until there are now some 21 branches in the city and some 237 small classroom libraries dependent on the central organization. The total circulation from the branches in 1928 was 446,267, or an average of about 24 books for each of the 18,061 registered borrowers. In 1916, the *Comune,* which heretofore had not participated in the governing of the *Consorzio,* began the appointment of a majority of the directors, changing the name to *Istituto antonomo per la diffusion della coltura del popolo a mezzo del libro.* In 1926, the system was brought more fully under government control and was made a part of the administrative hierarchy.

As the system grew, new activities were added. In 1912, there was created a section for children, which in 1913 held an International Children's Book Fair. There are now three sections solely for children. In 1912, a reference service was also started, an unusual feature in popular libraries, but because of lack of room this work has not been strongly developed. Summer courses for assistants were held about 1918 and for a few years thereafter, and in 1924, a musical library was opened. The Central library is open eight hours a day and has a daily attendance of over 500.

The sections are all located in municipal buildings, either schools or former customs buildings at the old gates of the city, but four are located in apartment houses of the "Institute for Popular Houses," which Dr Fabietti says, "has been very glad to offer to the regular inhabitants this service of an intellectual character." He adds in his annual report for 1928, "The last of these sections was recently opened in the *Stadera* quarter where there was recently carried on an interesting fight for the penetration of the book—certainly slow and fatiguing—among people, in large part, new to these healing gymnastics of the spirit."

As an indication of the type of readers in the Milan branches, Dr Fabietti reports that from 44 to 56 per cent of the readers were laborers, from 14 to 16 per cent clerks, from 20 to 24 per cent students (but not including the circulation from the children's libraries), only 2 to 4 per cent from the professional classes, one per cent from the *benestanti* (well off), and the 6 to 11 per cent housewives. In 1928, the books circulated were taken by classes of persons in the following numbers:

Manual and factory workers	107,578
Children and students of the lower grades in school	76,908
Clerks	67,376
Professional classes (mainly teachers)	39,303
Well-to-do	4,083
Housewives	39,320
Unclassified, mainly workers	41,738
Total	446,267

Much of the work of the *Federazione Italiana delle Biblioteche Popolari* was first started by the Milan libraries and then continued by the *Federazione,* so that the influence of the Milan system on the rest of Italy is almost unmeasurable.

Voluntary action has heretofore been the keynote of the *Biblioteche Popolari* in Italy. Working alone, without any connection with the older established

libraries—even at times looked down upon by the more classical libraries—they have gone their own way in performing a needed service. Then uniting to form a strong—and for them a wealthy—organization, they have, because of their combined purchasing and publishing powers, secured many advantages which as isolated and very weak units they could not have hoped to secure otherwise. And in this power to combine for common good lies most of the interest which the *Biblioteche Popolari* of Italy have for the rest of the world. Since the coming of the Fascist regime, there has been a marked tendency for these libraries to come under the wing of the government. Under such circumstances, there should develop a greater coöperation between them and the great government and municipal public libraries, so that there may be a more economical division of labor and a strengthening of the whole library system from top to bottom.

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Recent Fiction

Book Review Club of Greater Boston List 22, December 1929

I. Novels of literary value or included because of author's prominence.

Davis, William S. The whirlwind.
The French Revolution provides the subject for an able historical novelist.

LaFarge, Oliver Laughing boy.
A beautiful, tragic romance of Laughing Boy and Slim Girl, Navajo Indians.

Lee, Mary It's a great war.
Prize war novel presenting a vivid picture of war as seen by a non-combatant near the front line. A remarkable book with the characteristic form and subject matter of the modern war novel.

McFee, William. Sailors of Fortune.
Short stories of sailor adventures in different parts of the world, typical of the author.

Wharton, Edith Hudson river bracketed.
A young man's struggle to attain a place in the literary world of New York with the complications of ambitions and love. Well written but does not reach the author's highest standard.

II. Stories of more popular appeal

Connor, Ralph The runner.
Historical romance of exciting days and pioneer life on the Canadian border in the war of 1812.

Dawson, Coningsby When father Christmas was late.
Satisfactory short stories of Christmas.

Farnol, Jeffrey Another day.
A light, popular romance of love and adventure.

Gibbs, George Isle of illusion.
Adventure, love and a mystery in Louisiana, a Mississippi flood complicates the situation.

Locke, William J. Ancestor Jorico.
An unusual treasure hunt.

Mowerie, William B. Girl from God's Mercie.
A good type of rugged northern adventure.

Oman, Carola Crouchback.
Historical novel of 15th century, England, Anne of Warwick and King Richard II. Accurate, colorful background.

Payne Elizabeth S. Hedges.
A light, wholesome romance of a very popular type.

Powel, H. W. H. Married money.
A Boston girl inherits one million dollars on her marriage which brings many interesting complications. Written with humor and satire.

Skinner, Constance L. Red willows.
Pioneer life in British Columbia ably described.

Weston, George Around the world.
An amusing story of a world tour.

American Library Association

News and notes

The committee on A. L. A. activities met in Chicago, October 25-26, and made a survey of headquarters. Conferences with heads of departments and with the secretary and assistant secretary gave the committee much needed information in preparing its report. This information is being supplemented by letters to various groups of the A. L. A. membership. Letters have been sent, up to this time, to 1) a cross-section of the membership, including about 1,000 names; 2) present officers and members of Executive board and Council and members of same for past three years; 3) chairman of committees and sections.

It is planned later to send letters to extension workers, readers' advisers, library-school directors, and heads of other training agencies, these letters asking for opinions on A. L. A. activities related to the work of the above.

The work of the committee has been divided as follows: Miss Countryman will give special attention to library extension and adult education, Mr Meyer to professional training, and the chairman to more general activities.

A copy of the letter sent to the cross-section of the membership read as follows:

> The committee on A. L. A. activities, authorized by the council at the West Baden conference in 1928, has been instructed to make a scrutiny of the activities of the association with the view of suggesting to the council possible changes of policy. The committee is now engaged in such a survey. One of the methods which the committee proposes to use is to obtain from a cross-section of the members of the association their suggestions on and criticisms of the work and policies of the association.
>
> In making this selection, we have taken the first four names (not including institutional members) on each page of the list in the *A. L. A. Handbook*, approximately 1,000 names.
>
> We especially would like to know your opinion of the activities the association is now carrying on and, also, what you think the association might be doing which would be of greater importance than its present activities. We desire the utmost frankness as otherwise your letter will be of no value to us. We may wish to quote from letters received, but names of those writing them will not be given.
>
> The committee is approaching its difficult task wholly with the idea of making constructive criticism and recommendations, and to do this we must have facts from all angles. We shall greatly appreciate your careful consideration of and compliance with this request. Please mail your answer to the chairman at the address indicated below.
>
> (Signed) C. H. Compton, Chairman,
> St. Louis public library

The committee is receiving answers to this letter from many of those to whom it was mailed, but it will appreciate equally letters from any other members of the association who have suggestions or criticisms to make.

GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN
Minneapolis public library
H. H. B. MEYER
Library of Congress
CHARLES H. COMPTON, Chairman
St. Louis public library

J. C. M. Hanson, professor, Graduate library school, University of Chicago, has accepted the temporary chairmanship of an editorial board for the proposed *American Library Association Journal of Discussion.*

E. H. Anderson, director, New York public library and Charles C. Williamson, director of libraries, Columbia University, have been appointed American Library Association delegates to the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers to be held, April 7-9, at Washington, D. C.

L. L. Dickerson, librarian of the Public library, Indianapolis, has been appointed a member of the Board on the Library and Adult Education to take the place of the late W. O. Carson.

The A. L. A. sends word that a Rural Library Extension Institute is being planned for June 30-July 18 at the Uni-

versity of Wisconsin in connection with the summer school of the College of Agriculture. Alice S. Tyler will direct the course and Harriet C. Long will be in charge of a three weeks course in county library administration. The courses are for advanced students, and informal discussion methods rather than the lecture plan will be used.

Reference work, a textbook for students of library work and librarians, by James I. Wyer, has recently been issued by the American Library Association.

The chief aim of this book is to acquaint prospective librarians, particularly students in library schools, most of whom now are college graduates, with the materials, methods, organization and conduct of that part of modern library service which is known as Reference Work.

The book is divided into three parts: the first, containing discussions of the printed *materials* which in character and content are most valuable to the scholarly service which libraries seek to render. Part II indicates the *methods* of print and manner of its effective use for information, study and research in different types of libraries. The third part deals with the *administration* of a typical reference department, specialization of departments and the necessary relation of the reference department to others.

The A. L. A. Committee on readers and primers in the Section for library work with children, has prepared a booklist "Readers and primers" containing 12 series of readers and 23 separate books of the reader type which are suggested for use in directing little children's informal reading. The readers listed contain folklore and fairy tales, realistic stories about children, animal stories, humor and poetry.

"Gifts for children's bookshelves" is the title of a book list recommended for the home library. This list was originally prepared at the request of the library commission of the Boy Scouts of America, by a committee representing the Children's Librarians' section of the A. L. A. and by F. K. Mathiews, representing the Boy Scouts. Since its first printing it has been frequently revised.

Also a list of books for little children and for older girls and boys entitled "Recent children's books!" has been compiled by Jessie Gay VanCleve in an attractive little leaflet.

The *Reading with a Purpose* series presents two very interesting books this time. The first, "Capital and labor," by John A. Fitch, has been prepared for those who wish a better understanding of the labor problem in the United States. It is said of the author that "his inherent faith in man's striving for honesty and unselfishness makes him a constructive force in helping to solve one of the greatest problems of our time." The book after discussing the origin of the labor movement, labor organizations and legislation as a solution to the problem, suggests seven books which Mr Fitch recommends: Mainsprings of men, Whiting Williams; The labor problem, J. A. Estey; American labor dynamics, J. B. S. Hardman; New leadership in industry, Sam A. Lewisohn; A theory of the labor movement, Selig Perlman; The labor problem, Warren B. Catlin; and the Causes of industrial unrest, John A. Fitch.

The second book entitled "Home economics" has been prepared by Helen W. Atwater, well-known authority on the science and art of homemaking. Miss Atwater has written several farmers' bulletins on nutrition and other home economics subjects for the U. S. Department of Agriculture and has served on that staff as writer and editor of both popular and professional publications.

This course has been prepared as an aid to better understanding of how the utilization in family resources of time, money, and personal talents will bring the greatest returns in health, enjoyment and usefulness.

Midwinter Meetings at Chicago

The addresses at the Midwinter meetings were discussions of topics that are fairly well developed, it would seem, and while many of the old things were stated in a new way, nothing startlingly new in itself was given.

In general, the discussions of the Council on December 30-31 related to the following: Library activities of the Federal government, code of library ethics, recommendations from the committee on hospital libraries, and consideration of the new constitution of the International Federation of Library Associations.

The A. L. A. committee on the code of library ethics submitted a presentation of their conclusions for discussion by the council. Evidently other things than the ethics of library endeavors occupied the minds of the council as there was little discussion of the matter.

A recommendation from the Hospital Libraries committee thru the Council, recommended that the *Booklist* include 10 books a month with annotations from the point of view of the hospital librarian, with an annual cumulation of at least 50, if not all. It is also recommended that the budget of this committee be increased from $50 to $100. Third, it is recommended that the project for affiliation with the American Hospital association be endorsed at this time.

The Federal government's relation to libraries is set out in a letter from Secretary Carl H. Milam. Concerning that, there are 10 questions suggested for discussion:

Is it the duty of the Federal government to

1) Maintain an adequate library on education for the staff of government employees in education and for other students?
2) Extend liberal inter-library loan privileges?
3) Prepare special bibliographies on educational subjects on request?
4) Prepare and publish bibliographies of current books and pamphlets within this field?
5) Compile and publish statistics of all kinds of libraries?
6) Make investigations, surveys and studies of library service to schools and colleges, and library service of all kinds?
7) Issue publications on library service to schools and colleges?
8) Maintain a library division in the federal office of education with a staff competent to serve as library experts in connection with any study or survey in the field of education?
9) Give advisory assistance on library service to schools and colleges?
10) Give financial aid a) to equalize library service? b) to aid in establishment of libraries, e.g. county libraries? c) to promote adequate library service in educational institutions and in connection with educational projects partly or wholly financed by U. S. government funds?

May Wood Wigginton, chairman of the Subscription Books committee appointed by the A. L. A. to conduct a *Subscription Books Bulletin*, reported that the idea is to furnish, to public libraries especially, information as to the value and worth of expensive sets of books about which little is known.

The proposition is to furnish an unbiased advisory service on encyclopedias and subscription sets in this *Bulletin* which will be issued quarterly. It is intended primarily for librarians and it is hoped, however, that the information may serve teachers, principals, superintendents and individuals who are considering the purchase of subscription books for home or school libraries.

Sets of books about which information will probably be given in the first number include: America: great crises in our history, told by its makers; American educator; Book of popular science; Book of rural life; Book trails for baby feet; Circle of knowledge; Classroom teacher; Encyclopaedia Britannica; Lincoln library of essential information: Lives of game animals; Mythology of all races; New century book of facts; Standard dictionary of facts; Volume library; World book encyclopedia. In addition, about two dozen encyclopedias

or subscription sets which have received authoritative reviews in other periodicals will be indexed.

The National Association of Book Publishers has appointed a subscription books committee which has offered to assist the A. L. A. committee in its new venture.

Quite a stir was created by the presentation of the objection to the legal status of the Business Libraries section of the A. L. A. by William Alcott of Boston, president of the Special Libraries association. The contention was that this section had been organized at a private illegal meeting at which it elected officers and adopted constitution and by-laws.

The matter was finally referred to a committee consisting of H. O. Severance, Carl B. Roden and Matthew S. Dudgeon, who held that the constitution and by-laws were legally adopted at the meeting, but that the officers elected at that time were temporary officers, and that permanent officers should have been elected at the final meeting on May 16. Consequently these officers are not the officers *de jure* thru the technicality of the by-law, but they are *de facto* officers and may hold office and function until the final session at the next A. L. A. conference since the section failed to elect permanent officers at the final session of the annual meeting.

An appeal came from the Special Membership committee for greater interest on the part of librarians toward raising the endowment fund. The Executive board has begun a campaign on the matter and secured the services of Mrs Esther H. Dixon, at Headquarters, to give time to the work. The A. L. A. has been largely concerned with internal and professional matters so that the public at large knows little of its activities, its aims, or its needs.

[1]Harry A. Wheeler, of Chicago, trustee of A. L. A. endowment funds.

Endorsement was made of the Wheeler plan of obtaining sustaining and contributing members of various localities. A special membership committee has been appointed to complete Mr Wheeler's[1] plan.

The A. L. A. is credited with $435,000 of the million dollars which it must raise. The balance should be obtained within the next few months. It is suggested that meetings be held thruout the country to create interest. Another means of coöperation would be for A. L. A. members to call to the attention of local clubs, such as the Rotary club, Lions and Kiwanis, the projects of the association. The entire membership should be informed and thinking about the endowment possibilities.

The project for a Statistical bureau at A. L. A. Headquarters was distributed before the meeting so that attention might be given to the question before the Council convened.

The proposal is that a Statistical bureau with a staff of two persons be set up at A. L. A. Headquarters to collect library statistics, issue a loose-leaf statistical bulletin, and render such special statistical service that may be possible; the cost to be paid by institutional members on a "service basis."

The functions of such a bureau are:

1) To assemble, compile and publish general statistics relating to all kinds of libraries.

2) To gather statistics on scheduled increases and to make comparisons with other professions.

3) To make special compilations, of circulation, expenditures, number of volumes, etc.

4) To assemble special information in response to requests, insofar as it is possible in view of other duties.

5) To collect factual non-statistical material, such as changes in administrative practices, certification, legislation, etc.

The Library Survey committee voted that the Executive board of the A. L. A. be asked to find ways and means for bringing up-to-date the essential facts brought out by the Survey Questionnaire, and for getting important information from institutional members of the A. L. A. To accom-

plish this, the Committee proposed a Research and Statistical department at Headquarters to be paid for, if necessary, by an increase in institutional membership fees.
6) To publish such statistics and facts at regular intervals.
7) To serve as a central bureau of information on library statistics.
8) All work to be under the supervision of appropriate committees.
9) The statistical bulletin and the service to be available to institutional members only.

The staff is to consist of a professional librarian, with ability in statistical research, and one stenographer.

A suggested budget for carrying on this amounted to a total of $12,000. This figure does not include the departmental share of the cost of mimeographing, filing, mailing, clerical work, accounting and administration.

An increase in institutional membership dues was suggested for covering the expenses for such a bureau, for 963 institutions whose income figures are available. A library with an income of $5,000 or less, is to be charged $7.50; a library with an income of from $5,000 to $10,000, $10. Increased at a ratio of $5 until an income of $500,000 is reached, the rate would be $30; and libraries with an income of more than $500,000 are to be charged $50. An increase of $2.50 was named for 233 institutions with incomes amounting to $582. Adding 102 firms and foreign institutions at a $2.50 increase, makes a total income of $11,342. This process showing membership fees varying according to total income occurring for expenses, brings the total to $13,155.

A project for the building up and keeping up of students' collections in the libraries for the blind was presented by Mr Roden. Presentation of the idea was made by Aksel G. S. Josephson, chairman of Sub-Committee on books for the adult blind.

The need of books for the blind was set out thru application of the Decimal classification. The chairman stated that from such a "mob of books" not even the foundations of a library can be brought together. Add to this a few hundred works of fiction, poetry and drama, in which the emphasis is laid on the very popular, and you have all that by American printing houses has been made available for blind men and women to promote their mental growth without the aid of other persons. The publication of books in braille is not a paying business as the number of prospective purchasers is too small.

There has been a congressional grant of $75,000 a year to the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky, to provide books for a number of years, especially school books for blind children, but little has been done for the adults.

Statistics of the present need were obtained from blind persons themselves, stressing the point that blind people are just as normal as the sighted in other respects, interested in the same things, and wish to read the same books as their sighted friends do. The work in England by the National Institute for the Blind and the National library is far ahead of that done in America.

It was said that if Congress can grant $75,000 annually to the American Printing House for the Blind to aid in the education of blind children, it might be regarded to be as much within its scope to give a grant in aid of the further education of the graduates of these schools and also of the blind men and women who wish to educate themselves along professional and cultural lines.

Mr Josephson's plan proposed that the Council authorize the Executive board to ask Congress to create a trust fund of $2,000,000 which will give an annual income of $100,000, for the purpose of procuring books in braille of an educational character. A number of useful suggestions for carrying on the work, if Congress should make the appropriation, were submitted by Mr Josephson.

Executive action

Action by the Executive board in its meeting on January 1, is recorded as follows:

The hospital library project, providing for a study of the use of books and reading as a therapeutic agent in hospitals, was approved as well as the request for printing prison library booklists.

A special committee was appointed to consider the establishment of a statistical board at A. L. A. Headquarters. (See p. 61)

The Board at this time recognizes the rapidly growing importance of school library work, and reiterates its interest and endorsement . . . and considers this the important thing for 1930.

No funds being available to carry out the recommendation for a clearing house for bibliographies and research lists at Headquarters, the recommendation was laid on the table.

Chicago was selected as the meeting place for the A. L. A. conference in 1933.

It was voted to convey to the Inter-American conference on bibliography at Havana the hope that it will hold its second meeting in 1933 in Chicago, and the Committee on Hispanic relations was instructed to make every reasonable effort to have someone present at the Inter-American conference who can adequately represent the A. L. A.

The Rockefeller Foundation by a gift has made possible a visit of the architect of the League of Nations to this country to inspect American libraries, the grant being under A. L .A. disbursement.

Two grants to be administered thru the A. L. A. were made by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace—to Margaret Demchevsky, of Bulgaria, for a visit and study of American library methods, and to Senorita Maria Chavez, of Mexico, for one year of study at an American library school.

A resolution was offered by H. M. Lydenberg, assistant director of the New York public library, expressing the appreciation of the service given to libraries in the introduction of paper stock of lasting quality by the few publications which realize the situation. Those named were: *The Chicago Tribune, New York Times, Detroit News, United States Daily, Gazette* (Hanover, N. H.), *Dartmouth* and *Union-Gazette* (Somerville, N. J.)

College librarians

The College librarians of the Middle West, under the direction of Mr C. P. Baber, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, held informal discussions on a number of topics. Edna L. Goss of the University of Minnesota discussed Cataloging of serials and government documents, describing ably various guides and reference books that will help the cataloger with these publications. She also offered solutions for many of the perplexing problems connected therewith. Willis H. Kerr, librarian of Pomona College, told of the plan to unite the three independent college libraries of Claremont, California, in certain phases, as buying books costing $10 or more, centralization of book binding, and such other parts of library work that can be dealt with by one central library without the other libraries losing their own identities. Jessie Smith, speaking on Student assistants in a small college library, told of her own interesting work with student assistants and described the course of instruction given to the students. She spoke with feeling on the loss to librarianship of many of the student assistants after leaving college, due to lack of interest in them in the larger libraries after graduation.

Officers for the coming year are: chairman, Jessie J. Smith, Hiram College library, Ohio; secretary-treasurer, Jessie Jenks, Illinois College library, Jacksonville; third member of the com-

mittee, C. P. Baber, Kansas State Teachers College library, Emporia.

Normal and teachers' college librarians

Normal school and Teachers college librarians, under the chairmanship of Eleanor Weir Welch, met on Tuesday, December 31.

Ruby E. Cundiff, Syracuse University library school, spoke on Methods of building a live book collection. She emphasized the need of the library being built around the courses in the catalog, that it may take its place as an instructional factor in the school. The publications for each course will fall under 1) primary sources, 2) secondary sources, 3) in the general field, 4) in the regional field. This material will include books, periodicals, official documents, society publications, atlases, bibliographies, dictionaries and encyclopedias. Such a study will build the collection where weak, coöperate with the teaching staff, and inspire respect for the library and its service.

Mrs Elsie Howard Pine, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, discussed Organization and administration of the practice school library. Mrs Pine discussed the advantages and disadvantages of housing the practice library in the college library building and of housing it in the training school building. The practice school library should not be too expensively equipped, but should be simple and complete to serve as an example for the smaller communities. She further emphasized the size, shelving and equipment, hours of service, books, the librarian and her service. The service is first to the practice school pupils and secondly to the practice teachers.

Della McGregor, chief of the Juvenile division, St. Paul public library, discussed the illustrators of recent children's books. A mimeographed list of illustrators and an exhibit of books supplemented the talk. Miss McGregor spoke especially of the characteristics and tendencies of the three Russian artists, Boris Artzybasheff, Nadejen, and Silibin. Other artists emphasized were Elsa Beshow, Pamela Bianco, Elizabeth MacKinstry and the Petershams.

The charts and floor plans of reserve rooms and practice school libraries, exhibited at the Washington conference, were on display. They form an exhibit to be kept at Headquarters to be loaned to those interested.

Emma Wiecking, librarian of the State Teachers College, Mankato, Minnesota, was elected chairman for 1930.

EMMA WIECKING
Secretary

University and reference librarians

Robert J. Usher made a presentation of the extent and value and service of his institution, the Howard Memorial library, in New Orleans. This library has specialized in reference material. William Beer, connected with the library for 30 years, stored vast quantities of books, pamphlets and periodicals because of lack of means of making the material accessible. Many periodicals are so rare as not to be recorded, and among the pamphlets are thousands of titles new to Library of Congress cards. The Howard library is now coming into the light of knowledge for the citizens of New Orleans and is of increasing value as a good working reference collection.

In "A study of the book trade," Harold G. Russell, University of Minnesota library, called this topic the problem of many scholarly libraries. He distributed a list of one hundred foreign booksellers omitting those which deal with books of Great Britain, France and Germany, and emphasizing books not so well-known to American libraries. Dealers are listed from nearly all the countries of South America, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, the Baltic countries, the Balkan states and other countries of Europe. Mr Russell stated that the book markets

of Australia and New Zealand were becoming increasingly attractive and many books published in Europe can be found there at gratifyingly low prices.

Miss Wulfekoetter of the University of Cincinnati library dealt with the subject of receiving periodicals and using them in the reference work of the library.

The archive material in the Ayer collection of the Newberry library was interestingly discussed by Dr Ruth Lapham Butler. This collection, as is well-known, is remarkably rich in books and manuscripts dealing with the races of North America and, particularly, in the history of sections with which the Spaniards were connected.

There were about 250 persons present at the joint session of the University and Reference librarians and College librarians of the Middle West.

Anita M. Hostetter, of A. L. A. Headquarters, discussed the scholarships that are open to every class of librarians, from those wanting advanced study to those just beginning.

Opportunities for advance study of library service followed the line of discussion of the matter that has prevailed from the beginning, two or three years ago. Miss West of Texas told in a new way her experience in pioneering in a community unacquainted with the meaning of the terms "library spirit," "library service" and "library use."

Attention was again called to the slowness with which the orders for the *British Museum Catalogue* are being placed on record, showing that there is still a lack of knowledge of future book values in the craft. Fifty-six more orders are needed to reduce the price of all to the point where the services of the catalog can be utilized more generally. One librarian was heard to say that if he had the money, he would buy as a financial investment all the remaining sets, because he foresaw the time when the price of these volumes would be multiplied many times over.

Dr Koch again brought before the membership present who were supposed to have missed much by not being present in Rome and its vicinities last summer, a supplement to what he had already given in print and addresses.

Mr H. W. Wilson proposed a designated clearing house for duplicates and unwanted sets. The plan had much to commend it, but it will probably simmer in the minds of those to whom it should appeal for quite a spell before action is taken.

There was a group of 13 library schools represented at a meeting of the Association of American Library Schools held in Chicago, December 30, 1929. Papers were presented as follows:

The service load of library school faculties, Ernest J. Reece; The need for an index to current publications in the fields of library work, bibliography and publishing, John S. Cleavinger; The program and methods of the Graduate library school of the University of Chicago, Douglas Waples; Whom shall the library school admit? W. E. Henry.

Informal discussions were also held on the use of A. L. A. text books, the relations between the Board of Education for Librarianship and the Association, and various topics suggested for the program of the next meeting to be held in Los Angeles.

A banquet was held for the members of the Association at the Hotel Knickerbocker between the afternoon and evening sessions.

ISABELLA K. RHODES
Secretary-treasurer

The index to Volume 34 of LIBRARIES was bound in with the December number for the list of subscribers. It seems strange, therefore, that some few report that the index was not received. Please investigate and report if the index for 1929 is missing.

Library Meetings

California—The first meeting of the Pasadena library club was an informal supper held at the Pasadena public library. Dr George Watson Cole, librarian emeritus of the Henry E. Huntington library, the chief speaker of the evening, told in an interesting manner of his trip as official delegate to the Congress of librarians and bibliographers, held in Italy last June. He illustrated his lecture with pictures of the many places he visited.

A committee was appointed which drew up a resolution, passed by the 80 members present, protesting against the recent action of the City Directors in curtailing the vacation period of the Pasadena city librarians.

The Club expressed its appreciation of the splendid and unselfish work which has been accomplished in the library field by Jeannette M. Drake, librarian of the Pasadena public library.

Mrs John E. Dutcher

Chicago—The winter meeting of the Chicago regional group of catalogers and classifiers was held, January 20, 1930.

After the preliminary business of the Group was concluded, Hazel Timmerman, assistant, Board of Education for librarianship, A. L. A., spoke on Why be a cataloger? She told of the imporance of the cataloger to the library, and the growing demand for competent catalogers, also, of the necessity of the knowledge of at least three foreign languages, and what comprises the cataloger's minimum educational requirements. In conclusion, she spoke of the possible development of the future catalogers trained along special lines, such as the cataloger of children's books and the school cataloger.

Miss Timmerman's talk was followed by an hour's informal discussion of cataloging methods and problems.

Lucy E. Brown
Secretary

New York—At the fall meeting of the New York regional catalog group, with 75 present, Mary N. Shaver, Columbia University library school, told of her experiences at the International Bibliographical Congress held at Rome, June, 1929. She gave an entertaining view of the whole Congress.

Brief explanations of the methods of cataloging and classifying of the League of Nations documents were given by representatives of six libraries.

Elsie Bassett of Columbia University library reported that they keep the documents with the international law classification and their own subdivisions and assign book numbers from the titles. They do not include the publication of the Permanent Court in this scheme.

Helen Sinclair of Colgate University library reported that their work was just begun, and that they had decided to classify the documents in 341.1 with a special scheme for subdividing. They have planned to arrange the cards in three ways including the topical where cards for all publications are filed together first by subject, then by committee or other body.

Constance Beal of the Russell Sage Foundation library said that they treated these publications like others and classed them where they would be most useful.

Caroline Righter of the New York public library said they classify them together in the League of Nations number and then subdivide them by year and series. The publications of the Permanent Court are included in this set, but those of the International Labor office and Conference are not kept with the League publications.

Reba Cawley of Princeton University library, reported that the documents are classed by them as a set in a special scheme in their International Law section. The topical arrangement has been used in filing the cards.

The Yale University library brought a number of questions to the meeting. As

to their own set of publications, they have bound the serial publications as sets; the others they plan to bind individually. They use the topical arrangement in filing cards.

A short discussion followed on the advisability of using Library of Congress cards.

DOROTHY E. COOK

Seattle—The twentieth meeting of the Puget Sound library club was held December 27, with an attendance of 66.

Mr H. F. Hunt, assistant superintendent of the Tacoma public schools, and Mrs L. C. George, of the Seattle public library, discussed the Influence of modern education on the work of the public library. Mr Hunt discussed the subject from the educator's point of view, and Mrs George talked from the angle of the work in a large public library. Both saw in the work the other side was doing, a wider field of helpfulness for his own interest.

Mary Lytle, of Seattle, emphasized the value of the Library section of the Washington State education association.

The meeting was under the direction of Mary H. Morehouse of Tacoma. The next meeting will be in charge of Rosamond McCready, of Auburn, which is to be called at her pleasure.

National Association of Book Publishers

The National association of Book Publishers met in New York, January 21. Edward S. Mills, president of Longmans, Green & Co., New York, was elected president to direct the activities of the association for 1930. John W. Hiltman, D. Appleton & Company, New York, was reëlected first vice-president. Other officers were elected from among well-known executives of leading publishers.

Major George Haven Putnam, dean of the publishing industry, who at 85 is still the active head of the firm of G. P. Putnam's Sons, acted as toastmaster at the luncheon following the business meeting. Donald Ogden Stewart spoke. Guests of honor were: Arthur Richman, president, Authors' League of America; Arthur Brentano, Jr., president, American Booksellers' association; Judge Alfred E. Ommen, special counsel, Employing Bookbinders of America.

Coming meetings

The Atlantic City meeting will be held, April 4-5, at Hotel Chelsea.

A Northeastern library convention will be held at Swampscott, Massachusetts, June 13-18, 1930. The state associations of the New England states are especially interested.

The American Library in Paris announces the recent publication of a bibliography, "Official Publications of European Governments" Part I, which lists the official publications of the ministries and other governmental agencies of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Esthonia, Finland, and France. It is a book of 255 pages, octavo, and will be of great value to all libraries and other organizations interested in accurate information as to what government material is available, and where and how it may be obtained.

The development of this bibliography was a most difficult piece of work, due to the fact that, with a few exceptions, no attempt has been made by individual governments to list their respective publications, and such material as exists is scattered among numerous libraries. But it has been found possible to give, in almost every case, accurate information concerning the official gazette and a complete list of diplomatic documents issued by the Foreign office.

The list has been in course of preparation for almost three years. Titles are, of course, in the native language, but each is translated into English, and the descriptive notes and other information are also in English.

Interesting Things in Print

A classified list of books on or about North Carolina has been compiled by Mary L. Thornton of the University of North Carolina library.

The contents of the leaflet "High Lights" (a beautiful bit of printing) is made up from the annual report of the Los Angeles public library. Over 20,000 were distributed.

An interesting story of the 35 years of life of the Public library of El Paso, Texas, is done into a pamphlet with illustrations. It is full of understanding encouragement. Miss Maud Durlin Sullivan, compiler of the report, has done herself proud also, in paying tribute to those who have developed the El Paso library.

The winter issue of a *Guide to Book Buying,* Tondeur & Säuberlich, Leipzig, contains lists of recent German books in art, literature and sciences. The lists are prefaced by several articles of interest relating to the German book trade.

An article on the *Deutsche Buchmuseum* at Leipzig by Dr Hans H. Bockwitz, librarian of the museum, is very illuminating.

The *Library Extension News,* sent out in behalf of equalizing library opportunities between the city and the rural districts, for December, 1929, has good material in it. It starts out by quoting endorsements of the county library plan by eminent citizens—in the Middle West at least—Governor Lowden of Illinois, Governor Hammill of Iowa, Governor Leslie of Indiana, and the Superintendent of public instruction of Indiana.

Recent articles on county libraries, the book wagon and lists of material available for distribution from the A. L. A. are included in *Library Extension News.*

Public libraries will find the little volume, Unions provide against unemployment (75c.), something in which they can interest casual readers in the ranks of the unemployed. It is a careful study of trade union unemployment benefit plans and other methods for relief and prevention of unemployment. An appendix, The scope and methods of study, is of interest. The book is highly recommended by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

The Chinese Economic Bulletin is compiled and published by the Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Information, an organ of the Ministry of industry, commerce and labor in the Republic of China. The annual subscription for the United States and Canada is $2.50, plus 50 cents extra for postage. It is issued from the Customs Building, Hankow Road, Shanghai.

The number for December 7, 1929, contains interesting information in English about the present status of flax culture in Hangchow, the residue silk trade in Shanghai, the rice crops in Changshu, Kiangsu, and the bond market, with a description of the Chinese weights, measures and coins.

A monograph, The ideally perfect library, by George Watson Cole, which was contributed to the Memorial volume offered to Herbert Putnam on the thirtieth anniversary of his becoming librarian of Congress, has been issued as a separate.

The painstaking labor of Dr Cole, in what has been the pleasure of his life work, is very entertainingly set out while the reader rises from the depths of discouragement, in which he is plunged by the realization of the great lack pointed out by the writer, to a moment of joy when this careful student also points out the things that have been saved in the world of print, even tho a vast majority met destruction and oblivion.

Books are very much like friends, being indeed the most human of all things that are made.—*May Lamberton Becker.*

This Year's Illustrations for Children's Books

Bizarre and grotesque pictures are being used to illustrate books for children, without reference to text. Accuracy of picture is as essential as is sincerity of text. For instance: To illustrate folk tales of western Europe in Tartar style, as has been done this season, is not only in grossly bad taste but is an educational blunder. An artist might as appropriately illustrate Ivanhoe with pictures of Chinamen in British armor.

The children's librarian in her special field of education, the interpreting of literature to children, has to consider the impression left on their plastic minds by pictures as well as by text.

So it is with satisfaction—the keener because I spent a part of my childhood in Brittany—that I handle the charming volume, Folk tales of Brittany, (Macrae Smith) collected and compiled by Madame Elsie Masson of that land, and edited by Amena Pendleton. One's first delight is in the harmonious format, evidently designed by the artist himself, Mr Thornton Oakley, from its silvery gray cover with delicate design in blue to its romantic Breton world in pictures. Mr Oakley spent six months in Brittany studying its life and absorbing local color. He depicts here manners, customs, and scenic background in keeping with that picturesque land.

Madame Masson, French herself, collected these tales of magic and mystery from authoritative sources. Fisher folk, peasants, noble lords and ladies, cottage life and pomp of castle find their places in these stories which are by turn vivacious, romantic, humorous, dramatic, or touched by the winds of stormbound coast and the melancholy of druid moors. Druid moors! yes! for the true Breton folk are descendants of the Celtic believers in the magic of verbena and mistletoe, from the builders of the megalithic menhirs on Carnac plain. Now and again in these tales, shadows of druid belief fall across their brightness; and, as is fitting in a collection from the land of Barbe Bleue's castle, there is a Bluebeard tale here. But one wonders whether a milder version could not have tucked away among the lighter stories, instead of opening the book with the adventures of Comorre. However, that is a matter of taste.

This collection is particularly for the girl who is leaving the simpler fairy tale and longs to wander in lands of romance, but is not old enough to enjoy tales of chivalry. It is a link between the poetic imaginative *märchen* and world-romance. The story teller will find new material here; and one would like to stop a moment to discuss the geographic values of a correctly illustrated book of this type on the picture-book table, but space is too short.

Not to Mr Oakley alone, but also to Miss Pendleton is due the folk lore excellency of this book for American children. Miss Pendleton's chief task was to clarify Madame Masson's involved style, for the latter had translated the tales into English and her real medium was her own language. This delicate, sympathetic editing Miss Pendleton did while abroad last summer. Her frequent visits to France, her study of French at the Universities of Pennsylvania and Cornell, have fitted her for such work. And her many library friends will be glad to know that at the request of a leading publishing house, she is busy on another book.

That delightful mystery tale, The strange search, by Madame Foa, translated by Miss Pendleton, is recommended by Dr William Lyon Phelps as "a good sea story."

FRANCES JENKINS OLCOTT

"Publishing firms putting out well bound books out of the good things of the past that children like, at reasonable cost, ought to be sustained."

Library Schools

Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh

As a contribution to the course in Circulation Work, the students had the pleasure of hearing Jennie M. Flexner, Readers' adviser, New York public library. Miss Flexner's talks, one on the Relation of the circulation assistant to the reader, and the other on the Administration of the circulation department, gave the students a stimulating view of the activities of a circulation department.

The school was glad to welcome Herbert S. Hirshberg and Anita M. Hostetter as representatives of the A. L. A. Board of Education for Librarianship. They spent a day visiting the school on December 5.

Mr Munn, Miss Kelly, Miss W. E. Carothers, and Elva S. Smith attended the Mid-winter meetings in Chicago on December 30 and 31.

Plans are now being made for the summer session in 1930. Martha Caroline Pritchard, director of the New York State College for Teachers library school, has again been secured as instructor in charge of the summer session and will carry the course in the Administration of the Platoon School library.

The following students have been elected as officers of the class: President, Virginia Kraber; vice-president, Jean C. May; secretary-treasurer, Elizabeth Baker; social chairman, Coeina Ruch.

The resignation of Mrs Dorothy G. Hosford as secretary of the school is announced. Joan Wright, graduate, 1928, has been appointed as her successor. Miss Wright will assume her duties the first of February.

Appointments

Florence M. Barry, '29, head of Intermediate department, Public library, South Bend, Indiana.

Grace Bleichner, '29, assistant, Boys' and Girls' department, South Side branch, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Laura May Marquis, '29, first assistant, Business District branch, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Gladys F. Rains, '24, children's librarian, Free library, Madison, Wisconsin.

Mary D. Rains, '14, assistant, Traveling department, Wisconsin Free library commission, Madison.

Reta W. Riding, '26, reference assistant, University of Wyoming.

Elizabeth E. Stephenson, '27, librarian, Geological department, Gulf Oil Co., Pittsburgh.

Marriages

Helen Earp, '28, to Norman P. York, August 20, 1929, at Toledo, Ohio.

Alice Foster, '27, to Edward W. Bergstron, October 19, 1929, at Pittsburgh.

Elizabeth Key, '29, to W. E. Baldwin, December 19, 1929, at Pittsburgh.

FRANCES H. KELLY
Principal

Drexel Institute

The students began the second term's work on January 2.

During the Christmas vacation, Frances L. Beckwith attended the Mid-winter meeting of the American Library Association in Chicago; Lucile L. Graveler had the pleasure of visiting the new library building of Dartmouth College; Lillian M. Lewis cataloged the new books in the library of the Rittenhouse club.

On December 13, the residents of the graduate house gave a luncheon and Christmas tree to the members of the class of 1930.

The library school had the pleasure of entertaining the Pennsylvania library club in the picture gallery of the Drexel Institute, when the president of the club, Edward E. Newton, read a paper on his recent visit to Jerusalem. John W. Herring, Executive secretary of the Chester County Health and Welfare council, lectured to the students on County Library survey.

Mrs Howland and Frances Wright, reference librarian, attended the Eastern conference of College librarians at Columbia on November 30.

ANNE W. HOWLAND
Director

Pratt Institute

The class came thru the examinations at the close of the first term without a single condition and has started on the second lap of the course with both num-

bers and zest undiminished, the former indeed being augmented by an additional member, Miss Augusta Brune, formerly of the staff of the New York public library, who took the first term's work in the University of London library school.

The course in library administration was begun by Margaret Jackson, librarian of the Hoyt library, Kingston, Pa., by a very practical talk on the small public library. The special library field was presented by Rebecca Rankin, librarian of the New York Municipal reference library, and by Mary C. Parker of the Federal Reserve Bank.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE
Vice-director

Public library, Riverside, Cal.

To accommodate increased numbers and added courses, the Library School building has been enlarged by the addition of a handsome lecture room which can be divided into two excellent classrooms.

It was necessary to increase the number of students from 25, hitherto thot the maximum, to 30. The session began December 30 with 30 students enrolled, drawn from seven states. About half of the students are college graduates and three-fourths of the class exceed the entrance requirement of two years of college work.

All students of the year course who graduated in August are now employed except one who has gone overseas.

CHARLES F. WOODS
Director

St. Louis

The month between the two semesters will be devoted entirely to practice work as usual. Assignments have been made to 11 departments and 13 branches of the St. Louis public library; the students specializing in children's work being sent to the Children's rooms at branch libraries for contacts with children and experience in story telling.

During the month, Friday mornings will be devoted to visits to two University libraries, the Washington University medical library, the Missouri Historical Society library, the Mercantile library, and a printing plant.

Phyllis Casey, St. Louis '16, has been appointed librarian, and Ida M. Agruss, St. Louis '28, children's librarian of the new Gravois branch, St. Louis public library.

Clara M. Fate, St. Louis '29, has accepted an appointment as librarian of the Northeast branch, Kansas City public library.

Mrs Irma Littleton, St. Louis '28, has been appointed children's librarian of the Sherman Park branch, St. Louis.

Virginia Z. La Grave, St. Louis '26, is serving as Readers' Adviser in the Public library, Oklahoma City, Okla.

HARRIET P. SAWYER
Principal

Library school funds

The annual report of the Caroline M. Hewins Scholarship for children's librarians shows that the fund now yields $400 a year. The fund is still growing and is administered by the trustees of the Public library of Hartford, Connecticut. Contributions to it should be made payable to the Caroline M. Hewins Scholarship Fund.

The scholarship is open to young women whose educational and personal qualifications indicate their fitness for professional training in library work with children. Candidates who wish to apply for this scholarship should submit applications and credentials early in February.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has announced six grants to library schools. The Atlanta library school received $10,000; the University of Denver, $5,000 for the preliminary work of organizing a library school to serve the Rocky Mountain region; the University of Kentucky, $1,800 for continuation of a summer session for school librarians; the Carnegie library school in Pittsburgh, $3,950 to continue a summer session for the training of elementary school librarians; the St. Louis library school,

$3,000; Hampton Institute library school, $10,900 for the support of the school in its regular session and $1,600 for the summer session for school librarians.

Fellowship grants for study and research in library problems will be available to a limited number of librarians thru a fund set aside by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The purpose of the grant is to enable persons who have shown promise of capacity to contribute to the advancement of the library profession, to pursue a year of study in connection with an educational institution approved by the Advisory Group on library grants.

In general, candidates should be graduates of approved colleges or universities and should have had one year's work in a library school, but these requirements may be waived in exceptional cases.

The stipend will be $1,500 or more and will vary according to the requirements of individual students. When warranted the stipend may be renewed for a second year.

Application for the school year, 1930-31, should be filed before March 1, 1930, with the Advisory Group on library fellowship grants, Carnegie Corporation, 522 Fifth Avenue, New York. Applications will be acted upon before May 1, and applicants will be notified as soon as possible.

John Macrae, president of E. P. Dutton and Company, and a lifelong friend of libraries, has provided an annual fund of $1,000 for at least three years to be used for the training of children's librarians.

The fellowship is named in memory of Edward Payson Dutton, the publisher. It will be awarded by the A. L. A. committee on library work with children, either to college women desirous of professional training, or to graduates of a one-year library school course who thru advanced training or research will be enabled to make a valuable contribution to library work with children.

The award will be made for approximately nine months' study in a school accredited by the American Library Association which offers a degree or a diploma in library work with children, or for advanced study under conditions selected by the applicant and approved by the committee. Columbia University, Western Reserve University, St. Louis and Pittsburgh are some of the schools now offering courses in children's work. Western Reserve is also planning to offer a graduate course next year.

Applications for the fellowship must be filed not later than March 1, 1930, with the chairman of the A. L. A. committee on library work with children, Anabel Porter, Public library, Seattle, Washington. The award for the year 1930-31 will be announced May 1, 1930.

A new school

The State Teachers College, San Jose, California, is the only institution that may now claim the distinction of providing library instruction for the undergraduate and giving a degree in librarianship on the West coast. The only other accredited library school in the state is at the University of California, which is for graduate students.

Dr MacQuarrie, president, applied for the degree of librarianship over a year ago and at a recent meeting of the California state college presidents at Sacramento, the state board of education granted San Jose school permission to issue the degree.

The library course at San Jose is in charge of a faculty of six trained librarians, and is one of the most complete in the country, the degree of librarianship being subject to a four-year course.

A Rural Library Conference[1]

A Rural Library conference was held at Rapid City, S. D., October 9, 1929.

The plan for this library conference was the result of a growing conviction, on the part of some especially interested in rural library extension, that we were talking too much about county libraries among librarians and not enough to other groups of workers who are closely in touch with rural people. It seemed apparent that if there were ever to be any general organization of county libraries thruout the state, that the place for publicity was thru farmers' organizations, farm papers, state extension workers, etc. We felt, too, that since librarians are continually trying to provide material which will fit community needs, that they would profit by information as to the educational programs of these various groups.

The response to our invitation was gratifying, and the newspaper comments and publicity given to the meeting were invaluable in arousing interest.

The conference was attended by leading librarians thruout the state and by representatives of the *Grange, Farm Bureau, Farmer's Union, State Extension Service, Brookings, Congress of Parents and Teachers, Young Citizens' League,* and the *Dakota Farmer,* all of whom talked briefly about the work of their organization and made suggestions for giving the county library plan publicity thru their various groups. Other speakers included E. C. Giffen, superintendent of public instruction, and W. F. Kumlein, rural sociologist at State college, Brookings, who reported on the rural library survey which he had made. Among the group in attendance were county agents, county superintendents, and a number of individuals who were interested in the idea back of the conference.

It is too early to measure the results of the conference. We are sure that thru the meeting itself and the newspaper publicity which was given to the talks of the various speakers thru the Associated Press, that a good start has been made in interesting a number of organizations in the county library plan, and requests have been received from those in attendance for speakers to present the subject at future conventions of their organizations.

South Dakota is fortunate insomuch as her first county libraries organized under the state law have been particularly successful. They serve as demonstration libraries which we may regard with some satisfaction since they illustrate from points of economy, extent of service, and patronage what should really be expected of a county library.

It is hoped that the conference may be the first event in a state program for spreading news regarding the work of the county libraries which have been established, and for disseminating information regarding ways and means of organizing new county libraries in the state.

South Dakota will never have complete and satisfactory library service until the establishment of county libraries becomes one of the important objectives of every organized group in the state interested in rural education and social betterment.

LEORA J. LEWIS
Director

South Dakota F. L. C.
Pierre, S. D.

[1] An extract from a talk at a joint meeting of the League of Library commissions and the A. L. A. Committee on Library extension, Chicago, December 30, 1929.

Printing presses in the United States alone produce:
700 magazines for farmers,
300 magazines for children,
2500 daily newspapers,
15,000 new books every year,
40,000,000 newspapers daily,
20,000,000 periodicals of all kinds,
95,000,000 magazine copies every month,
55,000,000 magazine copies every week.

Library News from China

After three and a half years of independent existence, the Metropolitan library of Peping (Peking) has been amalgamated with the Peping library formerly maintained by the Ministry of Education, and is now known as the National library of Peping. Pending the completion of the new fire-proof building originally designed for the Metropolitan library, the two collections are being housed at two historical buildings at the Middle Sea and North Sea. The National library is now administered under the general direction of a self-perpetuating board which nominates the director and the associate director, who are appointed by the Ministry of Education. Chancellor Tsai Yuan-Pei has been appointed director, but during his absence, Mr T. L. Yuan, formerly of Columbia and Albany and until recently director of the Metropolitan library, has been appointed acting-director. The amalgamation, combining, as it does, the resources of two of the most important libraries in China, is of far-reaching importance to scholars.

Besides collecting Chinese books, the National library will devote itself to occidental sciences and important reference works published abroad. The National library is trying to build up a center of research in Peping, and in this it has received generous support from foreign learned institutions and governments. The National library publishes a Chinese *Monthly Bulletin* devoted to bibliography, and also distributes the English-language bulletin of the Fan Memorial institute of biology.

A notable addition to the National library was made in November, 1929. In that month, a collection of 100 volumes of Tangut sutras, mostly printed during the Yuan, or Mongol, Dynasty (1280-1368), and a few Buddhist paintings, were purchased. These were recently discovered near Ning-Hsia, a city in northern Kansu. The importance of the purchase may be gauged from the fact that before this collection was acquired by the National library, no such material could be found in Chinese libraries. The Tanguts played an important part in North West China in the eleventh century, but their language was somehow lost to the world and was rediscovered only during the opening years of the present century. The Tangut language, which is ideographic and looks somewhat like Chinese, has not yet been completely deciphered. The sutras were translated from the Chinese Tripitaka, and it is expected that thru a comparative study of the text, knowledge of the language will be materially advanced.

The National library is preparing for publication a classified catalog of the Chinese books formerly kept at the Peping library and the Metropolitan library. The whole collection consists of over 200,000 volumes, of which 25,000 are known as Chinese incunabula.

In coöperation with the Peping Research Institute, the National library is also editing for publication a union catalog of books and periodicals in occidental languages found in Peping libraries. There are some 20 libraries in Peping where important foreign books may be found. It is hoped that the union catalog will be published before next fall. The union catalog will be kept up to date by a card supplement filed at the National library.

Drama Week

National Drama Week is set for February 9-15, 1930, and is being sponsored by the Church and Drama League of America, Inc.

Sunday, February 9, Drama and the church—As allies to make the theatre the socially creative institution it should be.

Monday, February 10, Professional theatre day—Power of the professional theatre to mold community thot.

Tuesday, February 11, Drama and the clubs and organizations—Importance of drama as a club activity; its offering in the study of social, religious and community life.

Wednesday, February 12, Drama and the radio—Available radio aids for recreational, cultural and educational drama in the home.

Thursday, February 13, Drama in the community—The recreative value of drama as a means of employing wisely the increasing hours of leisure as a civic investment.

Friday, February 14, Drama in education—Drama as a source of culture and information.

Saturday, February 15, Drama in print—An adequate dramatic library in every community.

The purpose of Drama Week is to throw the spotlight of public interest on the part which the drama plays in the life of the individual, the life of the community, and the life of the nation.

This is the first Drama Week to be sponsored by the Church and Drama League of America, which is an affiliation of the Drama League of America, the American Theatre association and the Church and Drama association. The work of the three organizations has been consolidated with the aim to make the audience worthy of its drama and the drama worthy of its audience.

Library Progress in New Jersey

The report just issued of the New Jersey public library commission shows that New Jersey now has 10 county libraries. These county libraries circulated last year a total of 2,500,000 books.

It is the policy of the commission to establish one county library a year as the state has only 21 counties and Hudson County is entirely urban and, therefore, does not need a county library. This will enable them to finish this work in 10 years and to give each county state aid which makes good service possible.

In addition to establishing a new county library in Somerset County this past year, new municipal libraries were established in four townships. Association libraries have been established in 16 communities. These association libraries will in time become municipal libraries.

High-school library work has progressed to the extent that 156 high schools now have libraries with librarians giving at least the minimum time required in Certain's specifications. Of these librarians, 78 have a minimum of 210 hours of library training in addition to a college degree, and 52 are full time librarians.

The commission itself has sent out 234,320 books.

During the last 10 years, the amount appropriated for libraries in New Jersey has tripled and the circulation of books has increased by over 5,000,000.

The graded summer school for which certificate is given has been accredited by the American Library Association and, thereby, placed upon a permanent footing. Since the beginning of summer school courses in New Jersey, there has been an attendance of 1,098 pupils and four-fifths of the small libraries in the state have librarians trained in this school.

The Publication department of *La Nueva Democracia* is part of a movement established to promote understanding and friendship between North and Latin America. It intends to supply the best of both Spanish and Latin American literature, and it has well-established connections with the publishing trade, with authors and with cultural bodies thruout the Spanish-speaking world.

This Department is prepared to render service not only in buying books in Spanish, but in advising what books are available in any given purpose. It has rendered service to the Mexican government, to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, to the World Peace Foundation, in circulating English language books in Latin America. It is now engaged on a bibliography of Latin American literature. Those interested may correspond with *La Nueva Democracia*, 419 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Minnesota Anniversary

The Minnesota library association has just celebrated an important anniversary to commemorate 30 years of splendid service given by Clara F. Baldwin as director of public libraries.

Serving as librarian and secretary of the Minnesota library commission from January 1900 to June 1919, director of the library division, Department of education from June 1919 to the present time, in charge of the traveling library since its organization in 1900, director of library extension and editor of *Library Notes and News* are but a part of the responsibilities carried by Miss Baldwin during the past 30 years. Remarkable achievements in the library field have taken place in Minnesota during this period and much credit must be given to the one who had the vision, the wisdom and the patience to direct the work so successfully. Not only has she given unstintingly of her time, thot and energy, but she has given of herself in such a way that her workers thruout the state, know her as a personal friend who concerns herself with the individual as well as with the work accomplished.

Thirty years ago, outside of the Twin Cities, Duluth and a few of the older towns in the southern part of the state, no public libraries existed. Today, libraries have been established in nearly every place of 2,000 people and in many smaller places. The creation of county libraries, a more recent movement, is becoming more and more popular and thru her untiring efforts, Miss Baldwin has succeeded in helping to establish 11 of these, with prospects of other communities adopting the plan in the near future.

Miss Baldwin has always been an active worker in the Minnesota library association and it was most fitting that the officers of that organization should take the lead in an attempt to pay special tribute to her at this time.

Edna G. Moore, librarian of the Duluth public library, in her letter to Miss Baldwin says:

I count it good fortune to be President of the Minnesota library association in 1930 and thus to be the conveyor of their expression of good will and gratitude to you. Librarians of the state, some former associates of yours in your office and present co-workers, all join in sending the enclosed check to celebrate your 30 years of excellent service for the development of libraries. It represents not only gratitude for your unfailing helpfulness but pleasure in having been associated with you and having felt the impact of a well poised and wise personality.

It is given in a free spirit, for you to use in whatever way will give you the most enjoyment. The gift is a milestone at the 30 year mark and we hope we see the road stretching ahead indefinitely, smooth and prosperous with you guiding as in the past.

I have in my possession many letters which will be forwarded to you as soon as they can be assembled in attractive and permanent form. These will be gratifying to you, I know.

On behalf of the Minnesota library association, once more I assure you of their great appreciation of your long and faithful service to the profession.

In her letter of acknowledgment, Miss Baldwin makes the following assertion:

"Such a delightful expression of goodwill gives me new courage to go on, in the hope that we may all come nearer to the realization of our ideals and hopes for Minnesota in the years to come."

It goes without saying, that with her continued leadership, the libraries of Minnesota have a bright future. Due to the pioneer work that has been so well done, the time is near at hand when the struggle for recognition and adequate support will subside and the workers will be free to think more and more in terms of greater service.

Hazel Halgrim
Librarian

Thief River Falls
Minnesota

Miss Baldwin's many friends in library circles outside of her own state will join in the good wishes and high tribute of praise from her Minnesota colleagues.

Department of School Libraries

To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to be forever a child.—Cicero.

Young People Turn Readers' Advisers

The original "What to Read Next" list of 228 books such as young people will enjoy reading "next" and all people will enjoy reading "now", was compiled by the School and Children's department of the Public library, Newark, N. J., in 1925. It was printed as a broadside on paper of goldenrod color in two long columns of six-point text. It was distributed (by thousands) to grammar school graduates and revised several times.

Then recently when the School department was casting about for new ideas, the assistant in charge said, "Why not ask the young people working in the library for suggestions? We have on our staff at least 75 junior workers of recent high-school age. They will know what they liked to read a few years ago. Let's get their advice. Or better still, let's ask them to make the lists."

It seemed a promising idea, so she asked six juniors to meet with her and with the assistant in charge of our junior staff and the young woman who runs the library's print shop. This was in May, 1929, and after much hard work and numerous revisions the revised list in six parts was finished six months later, December 2.

At the committee's first meeting many other lists and leaflets were compared with the original "What to Read Next" and the committee decided to reprint it in six parts of about 50 titles each. The subjects chosen for the six parts were people, places, romance and adventure, science and invention, belles-lettres, and the arts. The subjects were divided among the committee and each member agreed to present a dummy for his subject at a meeting early in June. From these dummies, varying greatly in size, shape and form, a card folder 2x5 inches was decided upon with due regret for the many good ideas and attractive layouts that bowed to uniformity. Variety in color offered some compensation, and the lists as they now stand make a rainbow of mandarin, green and white, primrose, fawn and salmon. (Mandarin and salmon should stand well apart.)

With the decision on a layout and the selection of committee members, five for each chairman, appointed by the senior advisers, the real list-making began. Those who previously had considered lists as table displays or regarded them not at all, now see halos over many. The piece of work projected as a list *per se*, became a lesson in library science. This was in accord with Mr Dana's belief in learning by doing.

Also, according to a Dana principle, the lists were to be an expression of honest preferences. The book not read by at least one of the committee was ruled out. Titles conspicuous on every list in good and regular standing were examined askance and subjected to a more severe test than the newer and less tried title. Committees met and members quizzed each other. Senior staff criticism was measured by the same rule, and objections were not honored unless books had been read. Meetings were held sometimes in library hours, more often after hours, as the committees were made up of juniors working on both day and evening schedules at the Main library and branches.

Revisions were frequent and constant. People, the biographical list, was the first to appear. It came from the printer's in September. From the first draft of 60 titles, 19 had been cut as un-

suitable. The 52 titles on the finished list represent with a fair degree of balance notable characters from Calabar to Wyoming, Bobby Jones as well as Stephen Crane.

Tendencies, watched and resisted, were an inclination to consider the list-maker rather than the list-user, to exceed the age limit of the desired reader, to limit the reading world to the United States and Europe, and to annotate with spineless adjectives. On the other hand, no opportunity was missed to strengthen respect for the standard, to mark the worth of recent books or to profit by the freshness which the young person was bringing to an old pursuit.

The young people knew what they wanted, and in the several instances where it was necessary for their preferences to yield to established practice, they did so with commendable spirit. The greatest wrench came with the sacrifice of modernistic Broadway type for Mr Dana's choice of Caslon Old Style. Altho the lists are much alike, some departures from strict uniformity are evident. For instance, committees for the arts and belles-lettres found so much difficulty with brief annotations that they resorted to subject headings as descriptive aids. The chairman of the arts list, working with periodicals, supplemented books on art with a few art journals. Lively authors like Lindbergh, Byrd and Beebe are the choice of several committees. Aviation, exploration, especially Polar exploration, came to the fore again and again.

Incidentally, the young people learned that O. P. books are not books to list, that book lists necessitate book orders. They became acquainted with similar lists from other libraries. They discovered bibliographical aids like the *Book Review Digest*. They know more than they did about paper, type, zincos, halftones and the process of printing. They had a chance to compare printers' bills and to see how "author's changes" raised the estimated price of $34.50 for 5,000 copies. First to last, they learned by doing. "Getting an education," said Mr Dana, "is learning, not being taught." Here is an instance.

CATHERINE VAN DYNE
In charge of printing
Public library
Newark, N. J.

An Educational Library Project

The library of Southeastern State Teachers' College sponsored in November one of the most successful educational projects of the autumn at Durant, Oklahoma. The project was planned and organized by the Teachers' College library and sponsored by the schools and clubs.

The Southeastern Teachers' College thru its library exhibited posters and bulletins in the reading rooms, and, in the halls of the training school, made special displays of children's books on the open shelf, attractive jackets from the new books, and posters prepared by children in industrial art classes and by adults in poster art classes. The library fostered a story hour each afternoon during the week in a special room of the college library and of the public library, using story tellers from the women's clubs, and from the student body. This story hour resulted in a permanent weekly story hour at the college library. A special program was given at the college assembly composed of speeches. A short pageant by the training school children represented a scene at the circulation desk in which the children inspected the Peter Pan Parade that passed thru the leaves of a large book, and watched short scenes enacted from different favorite books, and then chose their books accordingly. The pageant was followed by living pictures presented by the members from the writers' club.

The public school made a survey of all the books in their system, including the general school library and the room libraries, and of the books and magazines read by the children in their homes. Following this they added to their collections by means of gifts and purchases. Loan libraries were installed in the grade rooms by making collections of favorite books loaned by the children to the room, for general use, by the children of that room. Appropriate posters and exhibits were made in all the buildings, and the school participated in a poster contest and a doll dressing contest given by the club women of the town.

The women's clubs of the town sponsored and conducted contests in poster-making by the lower grades in all the schools, and in dressing dolls to represent characters from books for the little girls of all the schools. The clubs laid special emphasis upon the book drive for contributions for the Robert L. Williams public library. They decorated the store windows with posters and exhibits, posted appropriate book lists where contributors could examine them easily, and enlisted all the book stores in putting out their best material in children's reading.

The newspapers published daily articles on children's reading contributed by the librarians of the two local colleges and of the public library, by the city superintendent of schools, and by a representative of the mothers' club. Items were printed each day giving the progress of events. Splendid team work was exemplified by all participating, and the responses made by the children in the contests, story hour and in their use of the library, as well as the responses by the people of the town, were very gratifying.

Lola McAninch
Assistant librarian
Southeastern Teachers' College
Durant, Oklahoma

News From the Field

East

The Catherine Ingalls Memorial library of West Boxford, Massachusetts, recently given by Walter Renton Ingalls in memory of his daughter, was opened and dedicated on January 12.

The children of the Elmwood public library (Knight Memorial), Providence, R. I., dressed a number of dolls to represent their favorite book friends as a part of the observance of Book Week. This exhibit which was given space for one week in a front window of the Providence Gas Company located in the heart of the business district, created considerable comment and interest in children's work.

The annual report of the Public library of Fall River, Massachusetts, records a circulation of 620,969 v. This is exclusive of the use within the library of the reference, reading and magazine departments. A note that is growing more common in many library reports is "owing to the decrease in appropriation," fewer books were added to the collection and but few of the older books were replaced in this library.

Various persons in charge of departments and special work gave account of the local service faithfully administered, Miss O'Hearn, interesting things on the extent of the work in hospital service, and Miss McDermott in the extension of the branch libraries' service.

Population served, 124,309; 55 agencies consisting of 5 libraries, 42 schools, 155 rooms and 8 societies; books on the shelves, 153,883; number of registered borrowers, 28,499; appropriations, $82,-622; expenditures, $82,619.

In the little village of Greene, in the town of Coventry, Rhode Island, which was once the home of the famous Revolutionary general, Nathaniel Greene for whom the village is named, a new public library was dedicated on December 28, 1929.

The occasion was made notable by the presence of U. S. Senator Felix Hebert who said that he had been privileged to read his first book from a public library in the town of Coventry, and that he had also attended school in the town.

Mrs William M. Congdon, State library visitor, related the development of public libraries in rural communities. Other addresses were made by interested persons.

The Greene public library was organized in 1923 and housed in the community school building until the erection of the new building.

Central Atlantic

Freeman H. Hertzel of Warren, Pa., has made a gift of $25,000 for a public library building at Tidioute.

Miss Adeline B. Zachert was appointed librarian of the Women's College library, University of Rochester, on January 1.

Leda Wadsworth, formerly with the Carnegie public library, Ogden, Utah, has accepted a position with the U. S. Department of Agriculture library.

Maude Montgomery, Pratt '21, formerly on the staff of the J. J. Hill reference library, St. Paul, began work on January 6 in the reference department of the New York public library.

Ruby M. Wilson has recently joined the library staff of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. She was formerly employed in the Public library, Evansville, Indiana.

Florence R. Van Hoesen, N. Y. S. L. S. '24, resigned from the Rochester public library during the summer to accept the position of assistant professor of Library Science at the Syracuse University library school.

The National Association of Book Publishers report great increase in the purchase and circulation of their books. The totals of new titles and new editions rose from 6,187 in 1920 to 8,889 in 1928; new book shops rose from 32 in 1919 to 206 in 1927.

A provision for $2,500,000 for a central library building for the Enoch Pratt free library, has been included in the municipal program which involves more than $50,000,000 in improvements for the city of Baltimore, Maryland.

The Columbia University School of Law has acquired by purchase the library comprised of 4,250 volumes belonging to the celebrated German scholar, Von Richthofen. The library is considered one of the most valuable records of medieval German law.

Dr Albert H. Zahm, for many years on the faculty of the University of Notre Dame, and later director of the aerodynamic laboratory of the United States Navy, has been appointed to the Guggenheim chair of aeronautics at the Library of Congress.

John J. MacFarlane, former state senator from Germantown, Pa., and for 30 years librarian and statistician of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, died at his home on January 7. Under his careful guidance, the Commercial Museum has become one of the finest institutions of its kind in the United States.

Harriot R. Ewald, Pratt '21, librarian of the high school connected with St. Francis College, Brooklyn, has been made librarian of the Cos Cob branch of the Public library, Greenwich, New York. Mrs Marjorie Driscoll Berry, Pratt '22, has been appointed to fill Miss Ewald's place.

The collection at the Rutgers University library, New Brunswick, N. J., of original autographs of the 30 presidents of the United States now lacks only one for completion, that of William H. Harrison. A recent gift from Frank B. Tucker of Woodside, L. I., of a photostat copy of a letter from President Harrison to Mr Tucker's grandfather,

completes the collection of signatures but not the collection of originals.

The Rutgers University library now owns 28 original signatures of the presidents, each of which is a gift. The original of President Polk is a loan.

The New York public library has on exhibit a notable collection of drawings by Arthur Rackham of England. This collection contains a dozen full-page colored drawings, with borders and decorative pieces, made by Mr Rackham to illustrate Graily Hewitt's book on Midsummer night's dream. This work is pronounced probably the best Mr Rackham has done and he is now ranked as one of the first illustrators of the time. Dr Weitenkampf, curator of prints at the library, has arranged a Rackham exhibit of books, shown with the drawings.

A collection of Daumier lithographs, on exhibition last spring, is again on view for a stay until March.

Walter S. Biscoe, for more than 40 years state bibliographer of New York, has been retired under the compulsory retirement law of the United States, but he will continue to be identified with the publication of the Dewey Decimal classification system with which he has been connected since it was organized.

Mr Biscoe graduated from Amherst in 1874, and then spent two years in the mathematics division of the faculty of the college. From there he went to Columbia University library as assistant to Melvil Dewey, librarian. He then went to Albany and remained there.

Mr Biscoe attended the second meeting of the American Library Association in 1878 and ever since he has retained an active membership in the Association. His entire library career has been spent with the New York State library with which, perhaps, he is more familiar than anyone connected with it. Indeed, Mr Biscoe is an all-around library man, and his knowledge of American bibliography is valuable beyond compare.

The Library of Congress has received a considerable amount of manuscript material relating to the early history of Florida, thru a gift of the late Mrs Jeannette Thurber Connor. From the ruins of an old monastery, she gathered considerable material relating to the history of Spanish Florida.

Maps delineating Spanish possessions, within the present limits of the United States, 1502 to 1920, were presented to the National library by the will of the late Woodbury Lowery, who died in 1906.

Two research consultants in science have been appointed to the Library of Congress—Professor Albert C. Lane of Tufts College, and Professor Albert P. Brigham of Colgate University. These appointees will have no administrative duties, but will be engaged only as consultants for those with research problems.

Other appointments were: Professor Charles S. Lane as specialist in church history, Dr Victor S. Clark, specialist in economics, Professor William A. Hammond, specialist in philosophy, Dr Mark A. de Wolfe Howe, specialist in English literature and Professor Henry N. Fowler in classical literature. These are provided for in a grant from the General Education board. This grant is intended to demonstrate the utility of such consultants and if the service proves to be effective, provision will be made for a permanent staff.

Central

The new library of the Michigan State Normal College, Ypsilanti, was opened to the students on January 5.

Col Robert W. Stewart, former chairman of the board of directors of the Standard Oil Company, made a gift of $200,000 for the erection of a library building at Coe College, Cedar Rapids,

Iowa. The entire sum is to be spent on the building.

Genevieve Macdonald, Pratt '28, has returned to the staff of the Minneapolis public library as assistant in the Reader's Advisory service.

A gift of $250,000 for a library building, as a memorial to the late Kersey C. Reed of Lake Forest, has been accepted by the mayor and council of that city. The gift was offered in behalf of Mrs Reed and her sister, daughters of the late John G. Shed, chairman of the board of directors of Marshall Field & Company.

Recent additions to the staff of the Library of the University of Iowa are: Dorothy J. Comins (Michigan 1927-1928) cataloger; Florence E. Hoffa, staff of the order department. Alma Hook has resigned her position as cataloger of the University to join the library staff of the New Jersey College for Women, New Brunswick.

Grace M. Stevens, for 12 years librarian of the Public library of Virginia, Minnesota, has resigned to assume the librarianship of the Public library at Rochester, Minnesota.

Miss Stevens developed the library service in Virginia until it is in the front rank of the good public libraries in Minnesota. Situated on The Range with its polyglot population, the opportunity for real practical book service has been ample and has been effectively met by the Virginia public library under Miss Stevens' direction.

Morison R. Waite, a prominent attorney of Cincinnati, has been named as a member of the Board of library trustees of Cincinnati. Mr Waite succeeds Colonel Robert H. West, who died recently after a long service on the library board.

Mr Waite is a grandson of the former Chief Justice Waite and a brother of Colonel Henry Waite, the distinguished engineer.

Mr Waite takes an active interest in various civic movements and is a member of the national, state and city bar associations.

A gift of $1,000,000, by the family of the late Charles Deering of Evanston, Illinois, formerly of the International Harvester Company, has been received by the Northwestern University for a new general library building to be placed on the Evanston campus. The new building is to be known as the Charles Deering library.

The building will be the first unit in the recent plans for expansion on the Evanston campus, calling for the expenditure of $100,000,000 for the next 50 years.

Mr Deering and his family have been life-long friends of Northwestern University.

Tuesday evening, December 17, because of the carried-out plans of the trustees and staff of the Public library of Cleveland, Ohio, may be called an auspicious occasion as it reflected the glory of the honor bestowed on Miss Eastman.

An oil portrait of Miss Eastman was presented to the library by the Board of trustees and the presentation of the portrait was attended by all those connected with the library. In addition to a number of distinguished visitors, happy speeches were made, letters of felicitations were read and a choice, bountiful dinner was enjoyed.

Miss Eastman's own spontaneous little speech of appreciation after the unveiling of the portrait was the high spot of the evening for the staff, to whom she paid a tribute which they humbly hope they deserve.—*The Library Log.*

Regent William L. Clements, of Bay City, has recently added some valuable documents to the Clements library of the University of Michigan. The collection consists of 20,000 letters and maps which belonged to Lord Thomas Gage, who commanded the British forces in

America at the beginning of the Revolution. The Gage letters consist of correspondence between the four secretaries of state in England—Halifax, Hillsborough, Shelburne and Dartmouth—and also the correspondence with the British colonial governors.

Col R. H. West, a member of the Board of trustees of the Cincinnati public library since its creation in 1891, and chairman of the Building committee most of that time, died at his home on November 17 at the advanced age of 82. Col West was always interested in the development of the Cincinnati public library and was keenly interested in its problems to the last.

In respect to his memory, the libraries in Cincinnati closed on the afternoon of his funeral.

The annual report of the Public library of Detroit records a home circulation of 5,254,712 issues. Of these, 240,000 v. are listed under the subjects of science and useful arts; Fine arts, 140,000 v.; sociology, 75,000 v.; current periodicals for home study numbered 43,980.

The report states that the main library building has reached its limitations as to space and that the only relief will be the erection of one or both of the contemplated wings which are provided by the original plans to flank the main building.

Attention is called, also, to a number of the branches which have reached their capacity limit, and the sound advice of securing land without further delay is emphasized.

During the past year, 210 reading lists were compiled, covering a wide range of subjects, by the Reader's Advisory department. The Technology department circulated over 50,000 v. An interesting phase of circulation is that the drift is away from books on automobiles to books on aeronautics.

The appropriation for the library is $1,222,183; total number of books on the shelves, 746,010.

South

Miss Morene Dumas, formerly librarian of High School and Junior College, El Dorado, Arkansas, has been appointed assistant librarian in the Free Library Service bureau, Arkansas State Department of education.

The twenty-fifth annual report of the Public library, Louisville, Kentucky, records total books on shelves, 294,196, which circulated on an average of 5.3 times. The total circulation was 1,560,676 v. There was an increase of 55,654 volumes in circulation from the children's rooms. There were 12,314 borrowers registered, making a total of 63,805 enrolled during the year. This does not include many using books in classrooms and in stations.

There are 100 stations for the circulation of books in Louisville and Jefferson county, and 18 branches, including eight high schools and one normal school.

The library staff numbers 90 and 14 paid by the Board of education, a total force of 104.

The total income was $221,322. Of this, $15,000 was paid by Jefferson county. Cost of maintenance, $197,031; books, $33,353; pay roll, $129,753.

The Louisville press, the first week in January, paid tribute to George T. Settle, librarian of the Public library of Louisville, on his completion of 25 years of service.

Mr Settle began his work in the public library January 1, 1905, coming there from 20 years of successful bookselling. On the acceptance of the Carnegie gift for a library building, Mr Hopkins was appointed librarian and Mr Settle joined the staff as head of the order department. He has remained with the library ever since. Mr Hopkins was succeeded by William Yust as librarian, and when Mr Yust resigned to become librarian of the Rochester public library in 1912, Mr Settle was chosen librarian.

The library has expanded during Mr Settle's administration from one main library building with seven branches, 213 classroom collections and 37 deposit stations, to county service, 18 branches, three sub-branches, over 382 collections and 100 deposit stations—a total of 504 centers. Other lines of work have increased, the circulation, reference and juvenile departments. Borrowers increased from 40,824 to 62,389. The income increased from $81,041 to $221,332.

The annual report of the Public library of Little Rock, Arkansas, is an unusually interesting and informing document.

The librarian of the Little Rock public library, Miss Vera Snook, is well-known among her many friends in the Illinois territory, for her comprehensive grasp of affairs and her unanswerable logic in presentation of an argument. She sets out the needs of the library very plainly and from her facts and figures one concludes that they are authentic. The needs mentioned are: more books for those departments extremely handicapped, better salaries for trained and experienced librarians, consideration for the needs of the colored branch library, the need of more library equipment, and consideration of a plan for future branch service.

The progress of the work of the various departments is set out, and the drawbacks to meeting the demands are pointed out clearly. The juvenile department and the school-library collections are sadly in need of help. The library is swamped with requests from the children, and the teachers continue to send them to the library despite the disappointment of not finding the material wanted.

There was a total circulation of 260,200 v., an increase of 70,000 over last year. The Little Rock library has no branches and a very limited book fund so these figures reflect strongly to the credit of the library and the reading public.

The six members of the staff have college training, special library training and much experience. Their salaries range from $90 to $130. It is impossible to keep good assistants that are not local persons on this amount.

The library last year had $20,118 to cover all expenses. For next year the librarians ask a budget 50 per cent greater, $31,783, of which $11,000 will be spent for books, and $4,035 would be available to increase the salaries of the staff members and the extra helpers. This budget, it is pointed out, would represent a per capita library maintenance of 30 cents a year for Little Rock, a long way off from the standard of one dollar per capita.

West

The Public library, Independence, Kansas, had a Christmas pageant in its children's room to which all the children of the town were invited.

A lecture "Christmas in Bethlehem" was given by Dr John L. Gehman, who having spent considerable time in Palestine had the opportunity to observe closely the subject of his address. His descriptions of the customs and observances of Christmas day on three dates, because of the difference in calendar years by the religious groups who worship there, made a lasting impression

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Pacific Coast

Three temporary appointments to the staff of the Public library of Portland, Oregon, are: Helen Johns, Gladys Hamley, New York, and Lotta L. Fleek, Wisconsin.

Eleanor Nimmo Wilson (Riverside, '28), late librarian of the Public library, Pawhuska, Okla., has been appointed to succeed Miss Strang in charge of county library work in Riverside, Cal.

The forty-first annual report of the Public library, Los Angeles, records a busy and progressive year. There were 8,414,000 volumes borrowed for home reading, and the number of volumes placed on the shelves added to the library the greatest gain in the history of the institution.

There are 47 branches and 85 stations serving the city, and 75 per cent of the borrowing of books is carried on by the branch library system. The non-fiction departments estimate six times as many reference books consulted as books circulated. There was an average circulation of seven and one-third books a minute for a 13 hour day in the Central library.

Card holders total 300,951, or 23 per cent of the population. Children borrowers under 14 numbered 55,326. There were over 1,000 cards issued in the City Hall to persons engaged in public service. The Municipal Reference department there has 8000 books and 5000 pamphlets, and circulated over 10,000 books.

A series of lectures by heads of city departments were given in a three months' exhibit of city departmental interests. Material was furnished for study of a university extension course in public administrations. Of the 607 free lectures given in the lecture room, 100 were sponsored by library departments. The lectures were made possible thru the generous coöperation of professors of local universities and visiting lecturers.

Receipts from tax appropriation were $1,277,500, and total operating expenditures were $1,276,281.

Changes in the staff are noted as follows: Resignation from the principalship of the Foreign department of Mrs Maryette G. Mackey and the appointment of Margaret Hickman in her place; the resignation of Marion Horton, principal of the Library school, and the appointment of Grace Hill in her place; Mrs Nancy Vaughan, principal of the Science and Industry department, was succeeded by Mrs Anne F. Leidendecker.

Wanted—Cataloger with library school training, Carnegie Public Library, Boise, Idaho.

Wanted—Children's librarian, training and experience, in medium-sized library. For particulars write the Chisholm Public Library, Chisholm, Minnesota.

Wanted—Trained librarian for small library doing rural service. Address Library Dept., 216 W. Monroe St., Chicago.

A Desirable Gift

Thru the kindness of a friend, the New York public library has had put at its disposal a number of sets of the Seawood edition of *Booth Tarkington's Works*, 21v. boards, cloth backs, paper labels, the limited edition published at $6 a volume, the first volume containing Tarkington's portrait and his autograph signature. This set, recognized as the best edition of Tarkington's writings, is printed in large type and illustrated. These will be sent, while available, to any public libraries applying for them, and agreeing to pay transportation from New York on a parcel post weighing 49 pounds. Applications addressed to the New York public library, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, will be answered in order of their receipt.